

ELEMENTS OF MUSIC

Rhythm

- rhythm is a combination of notes and rests, or sounds and silences.
- rhythm is the most fundamental element of music. without it, music does not exist.
- rhythm is different from "beat." the beat is the pulse that remains steady throughout the piece whereas rhythm has patterns.
- tempo is the speed of the beat. tempos can range from very slow to very fast.
- words that can describe rhythm: bouncy, smooth, trotting, galloping, even, uneven
- words that can describe beat: slow, fast, moderate, duple, triple

MELODY

- Melody is a coherent succession of pitches.
- Pitch refers to the highness or lowness of a tone and are labeled using the letters of the alphabet A-G.
- Melodies move generally in ascending and descending directions.
- The melody is divided into phrases, which are like musical sentences. Phrases can take the form of statement and answer phrases and very often contain patterns.
- Words that can describe pitch: high, low, moderate
- Words that describe melody: stepping, skipping, leaping, ascending, descending, unison, same, different, major, minor

EXPRESSION

- **EXPRESSION REFERS TO THE COMMUNICATION USED BY THE PERFORMER AT THE SERVICE OF THE COMPOSER'S INTENTIONS.**
- **MUSIC CAN BE EXPRESSED THROUGH TEMPO, DYNAMICS, TONE COLOR, AND MOOD.**
- **DYNAMICS REFER TO THE RANGE OF SOFT AND LOUD THAT A PERFORMER USES TO EXPRESS MUSIC.**
- **WORDS THAT CAN DESCRIBE DYNAMICS: VERY SOFT, SOFT, MEDIUM SOFT, MEDIUM LOUD, LOUD, VERY LOUD.**
- **TONE COLOR IS THE QUALITY OF THE SOUND.**

- **WORDS THAT CAN DESCRIBE TONE COLOR: SMOOTH, SCRATCHY, DEEP, RICH, BRIGHT, NASAL, BRASSY, WARM, BREATHY**
- **MOOD IS A BROAD TERM THAT IS A CULMINATION OF DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF EXPRESSION WHICH PRODUCES AN OVERALL FEELING THAT THE PERFORMER OR PERFORMERS GIVE THE PIECE.**
- **WORDS THAT DESCRIBE MOOD: HAPPY, SAD, JOYFUL, SCARY, PLAYFUL, TENSE, PEACEFUL, FOREBODING**

TEXTURE

- **Texture is the way in which the sound is layered. The texture can be thin, for example, one voice singing all alone. Or an entire orchestra accompanying a very large chorus would create a thick texture.**
- **Texture may also refer to the combination of instrument sounds and tone colors. For example, a string quartet, even though it contains four different instruments, would not produce as complex a texture a jazz combo containing drums, a piano, string bass, and a wind instrument.**
- **Words that describe texture: thick, thin, solo, duet, trio, quartet, chorus, instrumental, vocal**