

## Glossary of Musical Terms

**AB form** a musical form with a main theme and a contrasting theme (binary).

**ABA form** three part form: a musical form with a main theme, a contrasting theme and a return to the main theme (A-B-A).

**AABA form** a musical form with repeated main theme, a contrasting theme, and a final return to a main theme.

**AABB form** form where two different melodies are each repeated.

**a cappella** choral music without instrumental accompaniment; it is Italian for "in chapel style" (in the style of a small place of worship).

**accelerando** a gradual quickening of the tempo; accel.

**accidental** a sharp (#), flat (b) or natural ( ) that appears in the musical score but is not part of the key signature;

**accent** greater emphasis on note or chord; often indicated by ^ or > placed above the note or chord.

**accompaniment** a subordinate musical part that supports the main theme or melody.

**ad lib, ad libitum** indicates that the performer may vary the tempo of a composition in a musical way.

**adagio** a slow moderately tempo, between andante and largo.

**aesthetic** a philosophy dealing with the nature of beauty, art and taste and with the creation and appreciation of beauty.

**agogo** an African percussion instrument consisting of conical metal bells, each having a different pitch.

**allegretto** moderately fast tempo, between allegro and andante.

**allegro** fast, lively temp

**alto** lowest female voice; same as contralto; second highest part in choral or part music.

**analogous concept** a concept used in the same way across the arts, such as repetition or contrast.

**andante** literally, "at a walking pace;" moderately slow tempo, between allegretto and adagio.

**anthem** a short choral setting of a religious text, either with or without solo parts; also a short, solemn, secular voiced piece, as in national anthem.

**antiphonal** singing that alternates between groups, or individuals and groups.

**arco** playing a stringed instrument with a bow, as opposed to pizzicato (plucking the strings).

**aria** an accompanied song sung by a solo voice.

**arpeggio** literally, "harp-like;" the notes of a chord sounded in succession rather than simultaneously.

**arrangement** the adaptation of a composition for a medium different from that for which it was originally written.

**articulation** the way in which musical tones are attacked. It is related to the clarity in vocal or instrumental performance. Legato and staccato are types of articulation.

**art song** a song written for beauty, to express great musical emotion.

**a tempo** return to the previous tempo after slowing down or speeding up.

**atonal music** music not in any key, or without tonality.

**atonicity** the lack of a tonal center.

**augmentation** presentation of a melody in longer notes.

**aural** relating to the sense of hearing.

**autoharp** a stringed instrument on which simple chords are produced by strumming the strings; bars, upon being depressed, damp all strings except those selected for the chord.

**balalaika** a triangular-shaped Russian stringed instrument.

**ballad** a song that tells a story in which all verses are sung to the same melody; also a narrative poem

**band** an ensemble consisting mainly of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments.

**banjo** a stringed instrument with a body shaped like a shallow drum; a long neck with frets, and five or six strings, played by plucking or strumming.

**bar line** a vertical line drawn on the staff to divide music into measures.

**Baroque music** European music from the period between 166 and 1750.

**bass** the lowest male voice.

**beat** the basic unit of time and the underlying pulse in music; the basic unit within a measure.

**behavioral objective** statement that contains specific skills or behaviors that learners are expected to acquire.

**bi-tonal** the simultaneous use of two different keys in different parts of the musical fabric.

**binary form** music composed of two contrasting sections, A and B.

**blend** a harmonizing of voices having similar qualities.

**blues** music which gives a sad feeling.

**body percussion** sounds made by clapping hands slapping thigh and chest, and stamping the ground.

**bongo drums** a pair of small connected drums with different pitches; held between the knees and struck with the hands.

**bowing** the technique of using the bow on stringed instruments.

**brace** a bracket connecting two or more staves in a musical score.

**brass instruments** a group of wind instruments made of brass and other metals and played by blowing through a cup-shaped or funnel-shaped mouthpiece; the chief brass instruments of the orchestra are the trumpet, trombone, French horn, and tuba.

**breath control** method used in breathing to help produce good vocal and instrumental tone.

**bridge** part of a stringed instrument that supports the strings and transmits vibrations to the body of the instrument.

**broken 7<sup>th</sup> chord** a chord where the tones are played individually with an interval of a seventh occurring between the first and last note.

**cadence** a succession of chords, usually two, at the end of a section or a composition, giving a feeling of rest or finality.

**canon** a strict form of imitation in which a melody, stated in one part, is imitated for its entire length in one or more other parts.

**cantata** a musical composition consisting of vocal solos, recitatives, duets, and choruses with instrumental accompaniment.

**carol** a traditional seasonal song of a joyful character; particularly for Christmas.

**cello** short for violoncello; an instrument of the violin family which plays tones mainly in the bass range; lowest member of the string quartet.

**chamber music** instrumental ensemble music intended for performance in a private room or small auditorium and usually having one performer for each part.

**changing meter** frequent changes of meter in a musical composition.

**chant** a single, unaccompanied melody.

**choir** a group of singers, especially in a church.

**choirmaster** the person who directs the choir.

**choral music** music written for a chorus or choir.

**chorale** early Protestant hymn tune.

**chord** three or more tones sounded simultaneously.

**chord root** the fundamental tone on which a chord is built.

**chorus** a large group of singers; a choral segment of an oratorio, the refrain of a song.

**chromatic scale** a scale entirely composed of half steps.

**chromaticism** notes that move to the closest note above or below, often requiring sharp, flat, or natural signs.

**church sonata** chamber music written for performance in church

**classical** a European musical period characterized by emotional restraint and in which formal structure and design play a predominant part; the term usually refers to the period of Haydn and Mozart (1750–1825)

**classical symphony** an elaborate form of the sonata for orchestra.

**clarinet** a woodwind instrument consisting of an end-blown cylindrical pipe made of wood, ebonite, or metal, a mouthpiece with a single reed, finger holes, and keys.

**clavichord** an early keyboard instrument having strings that were struck rather than plucked.

**clavier** a generic word for all keyboard instruments.

**clef** a sign placed at the beginning of a staff designating the pitches of the lines and spaces.

**coda** a composed ending of a musical composition.

**cognitive** the process of mental learning.

**codetta** a little coda, or ending.

**col legno** tap strings with wood of the bow.

**common time** 4/4 meter. (the symbol may be **C**)

**composition** a written piece of music

**composer** a person who writes music.

**con moto** with movement; with animation.

**concert** performance of music open to the public.

**concerto** a composition, usually in three movements, for solo instrument and orchestra.

**concerto grosso** musical form, similar to the concerto, but using a small group of instruments against the full orchestra.

**conductor** the director of a band, choral group, or orchestra who, by means of hand and body motions, coordinates the ensemble's performance.

**conjunct** a term used to describe melodies that move by stepwise intervals.

**conservatory** a school specializing in one of the fine arts.

**consonant** harmoniously sounding pitches.


**contour** the shape of a melody.

**contralto** the lowest female voice; same as alto

**cooperative learning** working together in a group to achieve learning.

**countermelody** a melody that is added above or below the main melody.

**counterpart** music in which two or more melodic lines are sounded simultaneously; the technique of writing such music.

**crescendo** gradually getting louder, abbreviated **cresc.**; 

**cumulative song** a song with many verses and each successive verse containing a new word or phrase.


**cut time** the half note gets one beat; dividing the meter by 2.  $4/4 = 2/2$

**cymbals** a percussion instrument consisting of a pair of large round metal discs which are either clashed together or struck with a drum stick.

**da capo** abbreviated **D.C.**; indicating that the music is to be repeated from the beginning. *Da capo al fine* indicates that the music is to be repeated from the beginning to the word **fine**.

**dal segno** abbreviated **D.S.**; indication for repetition not from the beginning, but from a place marked by the sign.??

**decorum** propriety and good taste in conduct and appearance.

**decrescendo** gradually getting softer;  abbreviated *decresc.*; also indicated by the symbol.

**descant** a countermelody that is above the main melody.

**development** the second part of the first movement of a symphony, in which the musical ideas of the symphony are developed.

**diatonic** the tones of the major or minor scale; opposite of chromatic. (half steps and whole steps)

**diction** pronunciation and enunciation of words in singing.

**diminuendo** gradually getting softer; same as decrescendo.

**diminution** the presentation of a melody in shorter note values.

**disjunct** a melody in which the intervals are larger than a major second.

**dissonance** combination of unstable tones that require resolution.

**dominant** the fifth degree of the scale.

**dot** a dot placed above or below a note indicates that it is to be played staccato; a dot written after a note lengthens the note by one half its value.

**dotted half rest** most often seen as half rest followed by a quarter rest. However, can be written as a half-rest followed by a dot.

**dotted note** a dot placed after a note, lengthening the note by one half its value.

**double bar** two vertical lines that signify the end of a composition.

**downbeat** the first beat of the measure.

**dulcimer** a name given to several types of American traditional stringed instruments, including the plucked dulcimer and the hammered dulcimer.

**duet** a composition for two performers; a combination of two performers.

**duple meter** meter based on two beats or multiples of two.

**duration** length of time a vibration or sound lasts.

**dynamics** term indicating degree of loudness or softness in a musical composition.

**dynamic marks** signs or words indicating the degree of loudness or softness.

**dynamics, volume** loudness and softness of music.

**echo-singing** a rote process for teaching a song. The teacher sings a phrase and the student echoes the teacher.

**eighth note** a symbol of musical duration equaling one-eighth the time value of a whole note.

**electronic music** music produced by electronic means.

**embouchure** the position of the lips in the playing of woodwind and brass instruments.

**enharmonic** descriptive of notes that have the same sound but different names, for example, F# = Gb.

**English handbells** a bell with a fixed clapper that is rung by hand.

**English horn** a woodwind instrument closely related to the oboe but pitched a fifth lower.

**enharmonic** tones that are one and the same degree of the chromatic scales but are named and written differently.

**ensemble** a group of vocal or instrumental musicians; also refers to the quality of blend in a group's performance.

**episode** is that section of a fugue that digresses from the main theme.

**etude** music for the practice of a point of technique; composition built on technical motif but played for artistic value.

**exposition** the first part of the first movement of a symphony, in which the musical ideas of the symphony are presented.

**expression** the use of all the nuances of tempo, dynamics, phrasing, accent, touch, etc., by which the combination and succession of sounds is transformed into a vital interpretation of a piece of music

**F clef** see bass clef

**family of instruments** instruments grouped according to similar characteristics of sound and method of performance.

**fermata** a symbol placed over a note indicating that the note is to be held longer than its normal time value.

**fifth** an interval of five steps on the diatonic scale, as between C and G.

**finale** the last part of a composition.

**fine** the end.

**finger board** the part of a stringed instrument over which the strings are stretched and against which the strings are pressed by the player's fingers.

**five tone scale** five black notes between middle C and the next C above or below.

**flat** a musical symbol that lowers the pitch a half step when placed before a note.

**flute** a woodwind instrument consisting of a metal (or wooden) pipe with finger holes covered by keys, held crosswise by the player, who blows across a hole near one end of the instrument.

**folk song** a traditional song characteristic of a people, usually of unknown authorship.

**form** how a music composition is designed, its structure.

**forte** loud; abbreviated *f*. **fortissimo** very loud; abbreviated *ff*.

**fourth** an interval of four steps on the diatonic scale, as between C and F.

**French horn** a mellow and heroic sounding brass instrument with a large flaring bell, a funnel-shaped mouthpiece, and valves that control the tones.

**fugue** a musical composition based on imitation. It consists of an exposition, episodes, and the reappearance of the subject in different "voices."

**G clef** see treble clef.

**gestures** motions of arm and hand used to conduct music organizations.

**gospel songs** religious songs of American origin often associated with evangelism. Simple melody and harmony with elements of folk songs and sometimes blues.

**grand staff** treble clef and bass clef staves joined together.

**grave** solemn; a heavy, slow tempo.

**Gregorian chant** a style of plainsong. Christian music using one melody line, no set rhythm, and no accompaniment.

**guitar** a stringed instrument with a fretted finger board, usually with six strings; mainly used either in folk music or in rhythm sections of dance bands.

**half note** a symbol of musical duration equal to two quarter notes; half the time value of a whole note.

**half rest** a musical symbol to indicate a period of silence equal in value to a half note.

**half step** the interval from one pitch to the next adjacent pitch, ascending or descending.

**harmonic** an overtone, especially one produced by lightly stopping a vibrating string, such as on a violin.

**harmonic progression** movement from one chord to another.

**harmony** type of texture in which there are two or more different pitches sounding simultaneously..

**harp** a large stringed instrument with strings stretched across an open, triangular frame.

**harpsichord** a keyboard instrument similar in shape to the grand piano but whose strings are plucked rather than hammered to make the sound when the keys are depressed.

**homophonic** a musical texture in which a prominent melodic line is supported with an accompaniment.

**hymn** a song of praise or adoration.

**hymnal** a book of hymns.

**imitation** the repetition of a melody or short phrase by another voice or instrument.

**impressionism** a style of painting and music that depends on color to convey an impression.

**improvisation** creating music as it is being performed.

**improvising** making up music while performing it.

**interlude** short, brief, musical section used to separate two different sections of a song.

**interval** the distance between two pitches.

**intonation** degree of adherence to correct pitch.

**introduction** an opening section, frequently found at the beginning of symphonies; an introductory section played before a soloist begins; an introductory section played before a congregational hymn.

**inversion** a chord is inverted when one its notes other than the root is the lowest note.

**jazz** a type of popular music of African-American origin, characterized by frequent syncopation over strongly reiterated rhythm, frequent use of the flatted third and seventh degrees of the scale, and a characteristic sliding vocal technique.

**kettledrum** a tunable percussion instrument consisting of a large cauldron-shaped metal shell

over which skin is stretched, struck by two wooden sticks with heads made of felt or other materials.

**key** lever depressed by the fingers to produce sound on such keyboard instruments as the piano and organ; on woodwind instruments, a metal lever that covers a finger hole; the tonality of a scale.

**key signature** the sharps or flats placed on the staff at the beginning of a composition to indicate the key the music is written in.

**keyboard instruments** instruments which are played with a keyboard, such as the piano, harpsichord, and organ.

**koto** a Japanese stringed instrument that has thirteen strings and movable bridges.

**largo** a very slow tempo, slower than adagio

**ledger line** short lines above the staff for high notes and below the staff for low notes.

**legato** connecting pitches smoothly.

**listening guide** a chart that uses graphics or words to depict various events as they occur in the music.

**literature** the whole or sum of musical compositions

**locomotor movement** moving the whole body.

**lute** ancient stringed instrument related to the guitar.

**lyrics** the words of a song.

**madrigal** early vocal music originating in Italy. The two styles are from the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**major chord** a three (or more) note chord with a major third for the bottom interval.

**major scale** the pattern of whole steps and half steps that makes a seven-tone scale. (W-W- H-W-W-W-H)

**major tonality** music using major scale patterns.

**mallet instruments** instruments played with mallets such as xylophones and glockenspiels.

**march** a type of music usually in 2/4 or 4/4 used for marching in parades.

**mazurka** Polish folk dance

**mbira** an African instrument consisting of metal or wooden strips of different sizes attached to a resonator (gourd) and played with the thumbs. (*kalimba*)

**measure** a group of beats between the bar lines on the staff.

**melismatic** a melodic passage in which one syllable is sung on several different consecutive pitches.

**melodic rhythm** the rhythmic pattern of a melody.

**melody** a sequence of pitches that have rhythmic organization and are perceived as belonging together.

**meter** the grouping of the beats into measures.

**meter signature** the numbers placed at the beginning of a composition. The upper number indicates the number of beats per measure; the lower number tells what kind of a note will receive one beat.

**meter 2/4** time signature at the beginning of a song. Two beats in each measure. A quarter note is one beat.

**meter  $\frac{3}{4}$**  time signature at the beginning of a song. Three beats in each measure. A quarter note is one beat.

**meter 4/4** time signature at the beginning of a song. Four beats in each measure. A quarter note is one beat.

**meter 6/8** time signature at the beginning of a song. 6 beats in each measure. An eighth note is one beat.

**metric beat** the number of beats in each measure.

**metronome** an instrument used to indicate a steady tempo (speed).

**mf (mezzo forte)** moderately loud.

**minor chord** a chord with a minor third for the bottom interval.

**minor scale** the pattern of whole steps and half steps: that makes a seven tone scale. (W-H -W-W-H-W-W)

**minor tonality** music using minor scale patterns.

**minuet** a French country dance; is often the third movement of a symphony.

**mixed voices** a combined of male and female voices.

**mode** scalar arrangements of pitches with distinctive intervals. Common in medieval, Renaissance and folk music.

**moderato** moderate tempo (speed).

**modulation** changing from one key to another within a composition.

**monophonic** music in which there is one melody line and no accompaniment.

**motet** a polyphonic choral composition with a sacred text usually sung a cappella.

**motif** a short melodic fragment of a theme.

**movement** a self-contained section of a large composition such as a symphony.

**mp (mezzo piano)** moderately soft.

**multimeter** more than one meter in a composition.

**musical alphabet** the first seven letter of the alphabet which are the names of the notes.

**mezzo-forte** medium loud (*mf*).

**mezzo-piano** medium soft (*mp*).

**national anthem** the official patriotic song of a country.

**nationalistic** music characteristic of a nationality (country).

**natural minor scale** uses the same scale as its relative major scale.

**natural sign** symbol canceling a sharp or flat.

**nocturne** a night piece; title for slow, lyrical, often reflective music compositions.

**notation** a system for writing music that indicates pitch and duration.

**note** a musical symbol that indicates both pitch and duration.

**oboe** a woodwind instrument consisting of an end-blown cylindrical pip with keys and a double-reed mouthpiece.

**obligato** a second melodic line that accompanies the main melody.

**octave** the interval of an eighth between the lowest pitch and the highest.

**opera** a musical drama in which all or most of the dialogue is sung.

**operetta** a short opera with lighter music and spoken dialogue.

**opus** a term used for the enumeration of a composer's compositions.

**oratorio** a musical setting of an extended narrative, usually religious, for chorus, solo voices and orchestra.

**orchestra** a large ensemble of instrumentalists, consisting mostly of strings with woodwinds, brass and percussion.

**orchestration** writing or arranging music for orchestra.

**organ** a keyboard instrument consisting of manuals (keyboards), pedals, pipes (unless electronic) and stops for registration (tone color).

**ostinato** a repeated melodic or rhythmic figure that recurs throughout a composition.

**overtones** a series of pitches occurring naturally above the fundamental.

**overture** an orchestral piece introducing an opera, oratorio, etc.; also a term sometimes used for a self-contained concert piece.

**partner song** two songs that are in the same key and have the same length; can be sung together.

**patschen** tapping thighs.

**pedal** on musical instruments, operated by the feet as on the piano, organ and harp.

**pedal point** a single tone usually the tonic or dominant that is usually sustained in the bass against changing harmonies in the other parts.

**pentatonic scale** a five-tone scale (can be played on the black keys of the piano).

**percussion instruments** instrument playing by striking, shaking, scraping: drums, tambourine, triangle, cymbals, wood block, rattle, castanets, etc.

**performance** a public presentation

**phrase** a division of a musical line, comparable to a line or sentence in poetry or prose.

**pianissimo (pp)** very soft

**piano (p)** soft

**piano** eighty-eight key keyboard instrument

**piccolo** the highest member of the flute family

**pick-up note (s)** a note or notes at the beginning of a composition immediately preceding the downbeat.

**pipa** a pear-shaped Chinese stringed instrument that is held upright and plucked by the fingers of the right hand.

**pitch** the highness or lowness of a tone.

**pitched instruments** any instrument constructed to produce many specific tones when played.

**pizzicato** the plucking of the strings of a stringed instrument, such as the violin.

**plectrum** a small piece of any hard substance used to pluck the strings of an instrument.

**polka** quick two-beat dance



**polonaise** a state Polish court dance in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time; music for this dance.

**polyphonic** music in which there are two or more independent melodies

**polyrhythm** two or more contrasting rhythms sounding at the same time..

**polytonal** music where all tones are played at the same time.

**polyrhythm** two or more different rhythms played at the same time.

**popular music** light entertainment music.

**posture** the position or bearing of the body.

**practice** to work at repeatedly in order to become proficient.

**prelude** music designed as an introduction to another work; a short self-contained piece.

**presto** very fast.

**primary chords** the most important chords in any major key (I-IV-V)

**processional** music designed to accompany a dignified entrance to a ceremony.

**program music** music based on a non-musical subject, such as a poem or story, a painting, a patriotic subject or historical event.

**psychomotor learning** learning through movement.

**pulse** the regularly reiterated beat felt throughout a piece of music.

**"pure" electronic music** music made of sounds generated electronically

**quarter note** a symbol of musical duration equal to one quarter the time value of a whole note.

**quarter rest** a symbol to indicate silence for the duration of a quarter note.

**quartet** an ensemble of four instrumentalists or singers.

**quintet** an ensemble of five instrumentalists or singers.

**ragtime** a style of American popular music which originated toward the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, out of which developed the earliest form of jazz; mainly a style of piano playing characterized by almost constant syncopation.

**range** the highest and lowest pitches of a voice or instrument.

**recapitulation** a section of a movement of a symphony or sonata, in which the exposition is repeated with changes.

**recital** a public performance given by a soloist (not ensembles).

**recitative** a declamatory style of singing.

**recorder** a small, vertical, flutelike instrument whose pitch is determined by covering and uncovering holes with the fingers.

**reed** a thin piece of wood (or reed) used in the tone production of woodwind instruments such as the clarinet and oboe.

**refrain** a relatively short section that is repeated at the end of each verse of a song; sometimes called the chorus.

**registration** use of stops on an organ to produce various tone colors and volume.

**rehearsal** a practice session prior to a public appearance.

**relative major and minor** the major and minor scales that have identical key signatures; for example, C major = A minor.

**Renaissance** the transitional historical period in Europe from approximately 1400 to 1600.

**repertoire** a list of music that a group or person is prepared to perform.

**repeat sign** symbol indicating that the section should be repeated.

**repeated notes** reiteration of the same pitch.

**requiem** a mass to honor the dead.

**resonance** a richness and fullness of sound.

**resonator bells** tuned metal bars mounted on hollow blocks

**rest** a symbol indicating silence.

**retrograde** playing a melody backwards.

**rhythm** the organization of musical sounds in duration (time).

**rhythm pattern** a group of tones forming a distinctive rhythm which is repeated.

**ritardando** a gradual decrease in speed.

**rock music** music usually played on electronically amplified instruments and characterized by a persistent, heavily accented beat, much repetition of simple phrases, and often containing country, folk and blues elements.

**roll** a rapid succession of strokes played by both sticks on a drum.

**Romantic period** the European historical period from approximately 1825 to 1900; characterized by expression of emotions; Mendelssohn, Brahms, and Tchaikovsky were important composers.

**rondo** an instrumental musical form diagrammed ABACA.

**root** fundamental tone on which a chord is built.

**rote** the process of learning a song by imitation.

**rote-note** the process of learning a song by imitation and notation.

**round** song in which two or more groups sing the same melody but start at different times.

**rubato** flexibility of tempo.

**sacred music** music based on a religious theme.

**saxophone** a woodwind instrument used mainly in dance and jazz bands and often in military and marching bands.

**scale** a fixed succession of ascending and descending tones.

**scherzo** a playful movement in a fast tempo often used in sonatas, symphonies, chamber music. ("joke")

**score** the musical notation showing all the parts allotted to various performers in an ensemble.

**second** the interval between tones separated by one whole step.

**secular music** music not based on a religious theme.

**septet** an ensemble of seven instrumentalists or singers.

**sequence** the repetition of a short melodic figure or phrase at different pitch levels.

**serial music** music in which tones are used in a particular order, or series.

**seventh chord** a chord that adds the third, fifth and seventh notes of the scale to the root note.

**sfzorzando** a sudden strong accent on a single note or chord.

**shakuhachi** a notched, end-blown Japanese wind instrument.

**sharp (#)** a symbol indicating that a tone is to be raised by a half step.

**sheng** a Chinese wind instrument made of bamboo reed pipes placed together in a base.

**sixteenth note** a symbol of musical duration, 1/16 of a whole note.

**skip** melodic progression of more than one step of the scale.

**slide** the movable part of the trombone.

**slur** a curved line drawn over or under two or more notes indicating that they are to be played legato.

**solfege** a system for identifying the pitches of the Western scale: *do, re, mi, fa sol, la, ti do.*

**solo** music for a single voice or instrument.

**sonata** a composition for one or two solo instruments, accompanied by piano, in three or four movements.

**sonata form** a European musical form that consists of thematic exposition, development, and recapitulation.

**sonata-allegro form** the form of the first movement of a symphony consisting of exposition, development, and recapitulation.

**soprano** the highest female voice, classified as dramatic, lyric, or coloratura, according to tone quality and range.

**speech canon** rhythmically imitated speech patterns.

**spinnet** an early harpsichord having a single keyboard and only one string for each note.

**spiritual** a religious folk song most often of Afro-American origin.

**staccato** dots over or below notes indicate to play short, detached tones.

**staff** the horizontal 5 lines and 4 spaces on which music is written.

**stem** the vertical line attached to a note head.

**step** a progression by a half or whole tone up or down the scale.

**stepwise** a melodic progression of pitches ascending or descending without skips.

**string quartet** an ensemble consisting of two violins, a viola and a cello; also a composition written for such an ensemble.

**stringed instruments** instruments on which a vibrating stretched string is the sound-producing agent.

**stroking** term used to describe stick movement in drum playing.

**strophic** same melody repeated in each verse.

**structure** the formal organization of a musical composition.

**suite** a composition consisting of several instrumental pieces.

**syllabic** music in which each syllable is sung on one note (pitch).

**symphonic band** an large ensemble consisting consisting mainly of woodwind, brass and percussion instruments, with the addition sometimes of double basses.

**symphonic poem** an orchestral composition based on an extra-musical subject.

**symphony** an orchestral composition in four movements: fast, slow, moderately fast, and fast.

**symphony orchestra** a large orchestra that plays symphonic works.

**syncopated rhythm** rhythm characterized by frequent shifting of accents from strong beats to weak beats.

**syncopation** a shifting of accent to what is normally a weak beat.

**synthesizer** a contemporary instrument that produces sounds electronically.

**tambourine** a percussion instrument shaped like a shallow drum, covered with skin on one side. The loose metal plates attached to the rim jingle when the instrument is shaken or tapped.

**tempo** the rate of speed of a musical composition.

**tempo marks** music symbols and words used to indicate the rate of speed.

**tenor** the highest male voice; in choral or part music, the part above the bass; the name given to a specific member of certain instrumental families, as in **tenor** trombone.

**tension** a restless, unstable feeling caused by a dissonant chord or chords

**tension and release** the music builds in intensity and then subsides.

**tenuto** give full value to note.

**ternary form** a musical form in three sections (ABA).

**terrace dynamics** sudden contrasting dynamic levels.

**tetrachord** succession of four pitches (WWH).

**text** the original words of a written or printed work.

**text painting** music that describes or enhances the words in a song.

**texture** the thinness or thickness of music; description of the number of lines of music and the relationships among lines.

**theme** a series of tones (melody) constituting a basic element in the construction in a composition.

**theme and variations** see **variation form**.

**theory of music** study of the various techniques and materials of music.

**third** the interval between two tones covering two whole steps of the scale.

**tie** in musical notation, a curved line joining two or more successive same pitch notes and indicating that the successive note(s) is a prolongation of the first and not sounded separately.

**timbre** tone color; the unique quality of a sound.

**time signature** figures written on the staff at the beginning of a composition indicating the meter or the kind and number of beats used in a measure.  
2/4 3/4 4/4 3/8 6/8 9/8

**timpani** same as kettledrums

**toccata** an instrument piece in free form, usually for solo keyboard (organ), designed to exhibit the resources of the instrument and the virtuosity of the performer.

**tonal center** the key center or home key of a piece.

**tonality** how melodic and harmonic elements are organized around a tonal center..

**tone cluster** a group of adjacent pitches sounded simultaneously.

**tone color** tone quality; same as timbre.

**tone matching** physically singing a pitch that matches (blends with) that being played or sung by another person.

**tone row** a series of tones containing all twelve tones of the chromatic scale in a succession chosen by the composer and used as the basis of a composition.

**tonguing** in playing woodwind and brass instruments is a momentary interruption of the windstream by an action of the tongue as if pronouncing the letter **t** or **k**.

**tonic** the first and main tone of a scale or key.

**transposing** changing the music from one key to another.

**transposition** the art of writing or playing music in a key other than the original.

**treble** another name for the G clef, high voices.

**treble clef G** indicates that the pitch G is located on the second line.

**triad** a chord consisting of three pitches, arranged in thirds.—the tonic, third and fifth of a scale.

**triangle** a three-cornered metal instrument struck with a metal rod.

**trill** musical ornamentation, played or sung by rapidly alternating the principal note with the note above it.

**trio** an ensemble of three performers; music written for three performers.

**trio sonata** chamber music performed on violin, cello and harpsichord or piano.

**triple meter** meter in threes.

**triplets** three notes of equal time value to be played in the time space indicate (one beat, spread over two beats, etc.)

**trombone** a brass instrument with a slide that is used to change the pitches.

**trumpet** a brass instrument with valves; smaller than the trombone with a brilliant, high tone.

**tuba** the bass member of the brass family.

**tuned instruments** instruments capable of playing definite pitches.

**turn** ornamentation consisting of a group of four or five notes that turn around the principal note.

**twelve-tone music** a style of music developed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in which a composition is based entirely on a prearranged series of twelve tones (called a tone row) that includes all twelve tones of the chromatic scale.

**Twentieth Century** a musical period characterized by novel practices such as **atonality**. Stravinsky, Schonberg, Bartok and Hindemith were important composers.

**ukulele** a small guitar-like instrument with four strings associated with Hawaii.

**unison** identity in pitch; all singing or playing the same pitch.

**unpitched instrument** instruments that produced only one tone when played (i.e. bass drum).

**upbeat** one or more notes that occur before the first measure of a music composition.

**valve** a mechanism by which the length of tubing on brass instruments (except the slide trombone) is varied, enabling the instruments to play in all keys.

**variation** a modification or altered version of a musical passage.

**variation form** also known as **theme and variations**; a modification of the melody or of sections that are more or less derived from the melody.

**variety** provided by contrasts in timbres

**verse** a stanza of a poem or song.

**verse-refrain form** a song with a refrain which is repeated after each verse.

**vibrations** rapid back and forth movement.

**viola** a four-stringed orchestral instrument, played with a bow, tuned a fifth lower than the violin; a few inches larger than the violin.

**violin** a four-stringed orchestral instrument, played with a bow, tuned a fifth higher than the viola, the principal member of the strings.

**virtuoso** performer with exceptional technical skill.

**vocal techniques** ways of teaching children to sing.

**waltz** a composition in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time.

**whole note** a note of musical duration equal to four quarter notes.

**whole rest** a symbol of silence equal in value to a whole note.

**whole step** a musical interval formed by two half steps;.

**woodwind instruments** a family of wind instruments that is characterized by a cylindrical or conical tube of wood or metal usually ending in a slightly flared bell.

**work songs** songs sung while working to make work more enjoyable.

**xiao** a Chinese wind instrument made from bamboo.

**zheng** a plucked stringed instrument from China. The traditional form has sixteen strings; modern versions may have twenty-one strings.