



Musical Vocabulary Glossary 🎵
<b>A capella-</b> music for voices only, without accompaniment
<b>Accompaniment-</b> the music that supports the main melody
<b>Bar-</b> a rhythmic grouping consisting of the number and type of beats indicated by the time signature. Notated with vertical lines on the staff
<b>Beat-</b> the regular repeating heartbeat of the music – it is usually what people tap their foot along to
<b>Body percussion-</b> using claps, stamps, slaps and tongue clicks etc. to create rhythmic patterns and sounds
<b>Call and response-</b> when one person sings/plays a phrase, and then others respond by singing something different
<b>Canon-</b> two or more parts overlapping in exact imitation (as seen in London's burning) [a round]
<b>Chord-</b> two or more notes played at the same time that create a harmony
<b>Chorus-</b> a repeating section of the song with the same melody and lyrics each time it returns
<b>Compose-</b> to make/write your own music
<b>Composer-</b> someone who makes/ writes a piece of music
<b>Composition-</b> a piece of music that have been made
<b>Crochet-</b> a note lasting 1 beat
<b>Drone-</b> a long sustained note or chord
<b>Dynamics-</b> the loudness or softness of the music
<b>Harmony-</b> a series of notes sung/played at the same time as the melody but at a different pitch
<b>Improvise-</b> to make up a tune and play it on the spot (not composing or writing it down to play later)
<b>Melody-</b> a series of notes creating a distinctive and memorable sequence (often referred to as 'the tune')
<b>Minim-</b> a note lasting 2 beats
<b>Notation-</b> the way we visually draw or write down music



<b>Ostinato-</b> a repeated rhythmic or melodic pattern (plural ostinati)
<b>Pentatonic scale-</b> a five note scale
<b>Percussion-</b> instruments that create sound by being struck, scraped or rattled
<b>Pitch-</b> how high or low a musical note is
<b>Pulse-</b> the regular beat of a piece of music
<b>Quaver-</b> a quaver is a short note that lasts for $\frac{1}{2}$ a beat; they sometimes come in pairs or groups of 4
<b>Rest-</b> a silence between notes when you don't sing or play
<b>Round-</b> another name for a canon
<b>Scale-</b> a series of notes in ascending or descending order
<b>Semi-breve-</b> a note lasting 4 beats
<b>sharp-</b> a musical symbol that indicates raising the pitch of a note by half a tone (a semitone) #
<b>Staff-</b> 5 horizontal lines which we write music on.
<b>Structure-</b> how the sections of a song (verses and choruses etc.) are ordered to make a whole piece
<b>Syncopation-</b> where rhythms fall just before or after the strong beat, creating a dance-like feel
<b>Tempo-</b> the speed of the music
<b>Texture-</b> the number and types of layers making up the music e.g. lots of voices in unison, 4 voices in harmony, a solo, a duet, a melody with chords accompanying it, a round.
<b>Time signature-</b> numbers on the staff, located at the start of a piece, that show the number and type of beats in each bar
<b>Tune-</b> a series of notes creating a distinctive and memorable sequence (also known as a 'melody')
<b>Timbre-</b> the tone of a sound e.g. metallic, breathy, plucked, bowed, muted
<b>Unison-</b> where a group of voices are all singing together at the same pitch
<b>Verse-</b> a section of a song with the same melody but different lyrics each time it returns
<b>Vocal percussion-</b> using the voice to imitate the sound of percussion instruments