

# Musical forms and devices

## Area of study 1 - WJEC GCSE Music

### Baroque era (1600-1750)

- Harpsichord
- Ornaments
- Terraced dynamics
- Basso continuo
- Small orchestra (mostly strings, plus some wind)
- Suite, sonata, oratorio, chorales, trio sonata
- **Bach, Handel, Vivaldi**

### Classical era (1750-1810)

- Slightly larger orchestra
- Piano introduced
- Alberti bass
- String quartets
- Symphony, solo sonata, solo concerto
- Balanced, regular phrases
- **Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven**

### Romantic era (1810-1910)

- Lyrical, expressive melodies
- Large orchestra
- Wider range of dynamics
- Richer harmonies and use of chromatic chords
- Programme music
- Opera symphony
- **Tchaikovsky, Grieg, Schumann, Dvorak, Brahms, Verdi, Wagner**

### Form and structure

#### BINARY

A B

Two sections: A usually ends in a related key (e.g. dominant or relative minor), but B returns to the tonic. B will contain with some change/contrast.

#### TERNARY

A B A

Three sections: section B provides a contrast (e.g. new tune key change). A may return exactly or with some slight changes.

#### RONDO

A B A C A

A longer form: A returns throughout the piece, with contrasting sections called 'episodes', containing new ideas and using different keys.

#### MINUET AND TRIO

II: AB: II II:CD :II AB

The minuet was a type of graceful dance from the 17-18<sup>th</sup> century, and was often used as the 3<sup>rd</sup> movement in symphonies in the Classical era. The minuet had two repeated sections, the trio had two new repeated sections, with a return to the minuet at the end (no repeat).

#### VARIATIONS

A a A A *f*

The main theme (tune) is repeated and developed a number of times in a variety of different ways.

#### STROPHIC

A A A

A simple form where the song uses the same melody over and over.

### Devices

<b>Repetition</b>	A musical idea is repeated exactly.
<b>Imitation</b>	An idea is copied in another part.
<b>Sequence</b>	Repetition of an idea in the same part at a higher/lower pitch.
<b>Ostinato</b>	A short, repeated pattern or phrase.
<b>Drone</b>	A long held or constantly repeated note(s).
<b>Arpeggio/ broken chord</b>	The notes of a chord played individually.
<b>Alberti bass</b>	A broken chord accompaniment (I,V,iii,V) common in the Classical era.
<b>Anacrusis</b>	An 'up-beat' or pick-up before the first strong beat.
<b>Dotted rhythms</b>	A rhythm using dotted notes (gives a 'jagged' or 'bouncy' type of effect).
<b>Syncopation</b>	Off beat accents.
<b>Conjunct</b>	Notes that move in steps.
<b>Disjunct</b>	Notes that move in leaps/ intervals.
<b>Regular phrasing</b>	Balanced parts of a melody (like the phrases in a sentence) e.g. four bar phrases.

### Scales and chords

A **CHORD** is a group of two or more notes played at the same time. A **TRIAD** has three notes. A **CHORD SEQUENCE/PATTERN** is a series of chords. **DIATONIC HARMONY** is based on the chords of major/minor scales.

Primary chords I, IV, V  
Secondary chords ii, iii, vi, vii

**C Major Scale**




**C Major Triads**

### Candences

The two chords at the end of a phrase

<b>Perfect</b>	<b>V-I</b>	Strong ending – sounds 'finished'; a musical full stop.
<b>Plagal</b>	<b>IV-I</b>	Sounds finished but 'softer'; Amen.
<b>Imperfect</b>	<b>I-V, ii-V, vi-V</b>	Sounds unfinished.
<b>Interrupted</b>	<b>V-vi</b>	Moves to an unexpected chord; 'surprise'.

### Texture

<b>MONOPHONIC</b>	A single melodic line. 
<b>HOMOPHONIC</b>	A chordal style or melody and accompaniment: moving together. 
<b>POLYPHONIC</b>	A more complex (contrapuntal) texture with a number of different lines. 
<b>Melody and accompaniment</b>	A tune with accompaniment (e.g. chords).
<b>Unison</b>	All parts play/sing the same music at the same time.
<b>Chordal</b>	The music moves in chords (e.g. like a hymn/chorale).
<b>Descant</b>	A decorative, higher pitched line.
<b>Countermelody</b>	A new melody, combined with the theme.
<b>Round</b>	A short (vocal) canon.
<b>Canon</b>	The melody is repeated exactly in different parts but starting at different times, with parts overlapping.
<b>Drone</b>	Long held notes.
<b>2-3-4 part texture</b>	Textures which have 2/3/4 different lines.

### Jazz and blues

**Scat:** vocal improvisation using wordless/nonsense syllables.  
**Improvised:** music made up on the spot.  
**Blue notes:** flattened 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>ths</sup>, 7<sup>ths</sup>.  
**Syncopation:** off-beat accents.  
**Call and response:** a phrase played/sung by a leader and repeated by others.  
**Walking bass:** bass line that 'walks' up and down the notes of a scale/arpeggio.  
**Swing style:** 'jazzy' rhythm with a triplet/dotted feeling.

A jazz ensemble may contain:

#### Rhythm section

- Drums
- Bass (guitar or double bass)
- Piano/guitar

#### 'Horn section'

- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Saxophone

Some groups use a wider range of instruments e.g. clarinet, violin.

### 12 bar blues

#### Chords

I	I	I	I
IV	IV	I	I
V	IV	I	I/V

#### Example in C major

C	C	C	C
F	F	C	C
G	F	C	C/G

### Chamber music

Chamber music was music for a small ensemble, originally played in a small room in someone's home.  
**Baroque:** The **trio sonata** featured one or two soloists, plus **basso continuo** (which consisted of a low-pitched instrument such as a cello playing a bassline, with an instrument playing chords e.g. harpsichord).  
**Classical: String quartets** (two violins, a viola and a cello) were popular. They had **four** movements, with the 1<sup>st</sup> movement usually in sonata form.

**Romantic:** Chamber music groups were more varied in the Romantic era, using a wider range of instruments (e.g. piano quintet, horn trio). Performances happened in larger concert halls as well as in small 'chambers'.

### A piece of music for:

<b>DUET</b>	2 performers
<b>TRIO</b>	3 performers
<b>QUARTET</b>	4 performers
<b>QUINTET</b>	5 performers
<b>SEXTET</b>	6 performers
<b>SEPTET</b>	7 performers
<b>OCTET</b>	8 performers

### Welsh folk music

Larger ensembles such as **CHOIRS** and **BRASS BANDS** are popular in Wales, but smaller groups, including folk groups, are also widely found. The harp and fiddle (violin) are widely used.

### Musical theatre

Musical numbers may include:  
**Solo:** a song for one singer.  
**Duet:** a song for two singers.  
**Trio:** a song for three singers.  
**Ensemble:** a song sung by a small group.  
**Chorus:** a large group (usually the full company/cast).  
**Recitative:** a vocal style that imitates the rhythms and accents of speech.  
**Overture:** an orchestral introduction to the show, which usually uses tunes from the show.  
 The orchestra/band is used to **accompany** the voices and to **underscore**.

### Voices

**Soprano**  
**Alto**  
**Tenor**  
**Bass**

The band/orchestra (sometimes called the 'pit' orchestra), may use **strings**, **woodwind** (sometimes called 'reeds'), **brass** and **percussion** and/or a rock/pop band, depending on the style. Most shows also use keyboards or synths.

**CERDD DANT** is a popular form, which is often performed at an Eisteddfod. The harp begins first, playing a set melody (e.g. a traditional folk song) and the singer joins in, improvising a countermelody.

Some film **SOUNDTRACKS** include specially composed **SCORES**, either for orchestra (e.g. composers like John Williams, Ennio Morricone) or songs written especially for the film (e.g. Disney films). Other films use pre-existing music e.g. popular songs from the era/place in which the film is set.

### STRINGS

- Violin
- Cello
- Viola
- Double bass
- Harp

### WOODWIND

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Oboe
- Bassoon
- Saxophone

### BRASS

- Trumpet
- Trombone
- French horn
- Tuba

### KEYBOARDS

- Piano
- Electronic keyboard
- Harpsichord
- Organ
- Synthesizer

### PERCUSSION

- Bass drum
- Snare drum
- Triangle
- Cymbal
- Drum kit (untuned)
- Timpani
- Glockenspiel
- Xylophone (tuned)

### OTHER

- Electric guitar
- Bass guitar
- Spanish/classical guitar
- Traditional world instruments

## Musical elements

Film composers use the **MUSICAL ELEMENTS** (tempo, texture, dynamics, timbre, tonality, rhythm, melody, harmony) to create mood and atmosphere to help to tell the story and enhance the action.

For example:

In a **sad, reflective scene**, a composer might use slow tempo, minor tonality, soft dynamics, legato, homophonic texture, long sustained notes, and a conjunct melody.

An **exciting car chase scene** in a thriller might have a fast tempo, busy, polyphonic texture, dissonant chords, loud dynamics, syncopated rhythms, a disjunct melody and short riffs.

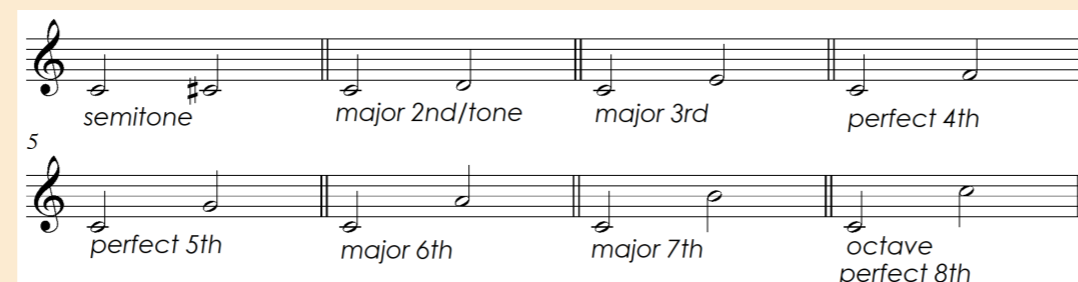
A scene where the **superhero 'saves the day'** might use a major tonality, brass fanfares, loud dynamics, accents, 4<sup>ths</sup> and 5<sup>ths</sup> (intervals).

Composers will often use **CONTRASTS** to create effect (e.g. using a wide range of pitch from very high to very low).

## Intervals

Film composers often use intervals to create a particular effect (e.g. a rising perfect 4<sup>th</sup> sounds 'heroic', and a semitone can sound 'menacing').

An **interval** is the distance between two notes.



**Rising interval:** moving upwards (ascending)

**Falling interval:** moving downwards (descending)

## Specific instrumental terms

<b>Pizzicato</b>	Plucking the strings.
<b>Divisi</b>	Two parts sharing the same musical line.
<b>Double stopping</b>	Playing two strings at the same time.
<b>Arco</b>	Using a bow to play a stringed instrument.
<b>Tremolo</b>	A 'trembling' effect, moving rapidly on the same note or between two chords (e.g. using the bow rapidly back and forth).
<b>Tongued</b>	A technique to make the notes sound separated (woodwind/brass).
<b>Slurred</b>	Notes are played smoothly.
<b>Muted</b>	Using a mute to change/dampen the sound (brass/strings).
<b>Drum roll</b>	Notes/beats in rapid succession.
<b>Glissando</b>	A rapid glide over the notes.
<b>Trill</b>	Alternating rapidly between two notes.
<b>Vibrato</b>	Making the notes 'wobble' up and down for expression.

## Composers also use:

<b>Theme</b>	The main tune/melody.
<b>Motif</b>	A short musical idea (melodic or rhythmic).
<b>Leitmotif</b>	A recurring musical idea linked to a character/object or place (e.g. Darth Vader's motif in Star Wars).
<b>Underscoring</b>	Music playing underneath the dialogue.
<b>Scalic</b>	Melody follows the notes of a scale.
<b>Triadic</b>	Melody moves around the notes of a triad.
<b>Fanfare</b>	Short tune often played by brass instruments, to announce someone/something important; based on the pitches of a chord.
<b>Pedal note</b>	A long, sustained note, usually in the bass/lower notes.
<b>Ostinato/riff</b>	A short, repeated pattern.
<b>Conjunct</b>	The melody moves by step.
<b>Disjunct</b>	The melody moves with leaps/intervals.
<b>Consonant harmony</b>	Sounds 'good' together.
<b>Dissonant harmony</b>	Sounds 'clashy'.
<b>Chromatic harmony</b>	Uses lots of semitones/accidentals that's not in the home key.
<b>Minimalism</b>	A style of music using repetition of short phrases which change gradually over time.



### Popular music includes:

- **POP**
- **ROCK**
- **RAP**
- **HIP HOP**
- **REGGAE**

Plus many other genres, e.g. soul, ska, heavy metal, R&B, country, rock'n'roll.

**FUSION:** when two different styles are mixed together. This can be two styles of popular music e.g. 'rap metal', or could combine a popular music genre with other styles, folk-rock, gospel, world music, classical to create a new and interesting sound. **Jazz fusion** (jazz and pop) is a popular genre.

### Instruments

#### ELECTRIC GUITAR:

- **Lead guitar:** plays the melody/ solos/riffs
- **Rhythm guitar:** plays the chords/ accompaniment.

**BASS GUITAR:** plays the bass line.

**DRUM KIT:** provides the beat.

**LEAD SINGER:** the main vocalist.

**BACKING VOCALS:** singers who provide harmony.

Pop/rock groups may also include **acoustic** (not electric) instruments e.g. trumpet, trombone, saxophone and/or electronic keyboards/synthesizers.

### Features and techniques found in popular music

<b>Riff</b>	A short, repeated pattern.
<b>Hammer on</b>	Finger brought sharply down onto the string.
<b>Pitch bend</b>	Altering (bending) the pitch slightly.
<b>Power chords</b>	A guitar chord using the root and 5 <sup>th</sup> note (no 3 <sup>rd</sup> ).
<b>Distortion</b>	An effect which distorts the sound (creates a 'grungy' sound).
<b>Slap bass</b>	A percussive sound on the bass guitar made by bouncing the strings on the fret board.
<b>Fill</b>	A short, improvised drum solo.
<b>Rim shot</b>	Rim and head of drum hit at same time.
<b>Belt</b>	A bright, powerful vocal sound, high in the chest voice.
<b>Falsetto</b>	Male voice in a higher than usual range.
<b>Syllabic</b>	One note sung per syllable.
<b>Melismatic</b>	Each syllable sung to a number of different notes.
<b>A cappella</b>	Voices singing without instrumental accompaniment.

### The structure of a pop/rock song may include:

**INTRO:** short opening section, usually instrumental.

**VERSE:** same music but different lyrics each time.

**CHORUS:** repeated with the same lyrics each time (refrain).

**MIDDLE EIGHT:** a link section, often eight bars, with different musical ideas.

**BRIDGE:** a link/transition between two sections.

**OUTRO:** an ending to finish the song (coda).

\*You may also hear a pre-chorus, instrumental interlude or instrumental solo.

\*Strophic songs, 32 bar songs (AABA) and 12 bar blues are also found in popular music.

A typical rock ballad in verse-chorus form could follow the pattern:

- Intro
- Verse 1
- Chorus
- Verse 2
- Chorus
- MiddleEight
- Chorus
- Outro

### Technology

<b>Amplified</b>	Made louder (with an <b>amplifier</b> ).
<b>Synthesized</b>	Sounds created electronically.
<b>Panning</b>	Moving the sound between left and right speakers.
<b>Phasing</b>	A delay effect.
<b>Sample</b>	A short section of music that is reused (e.g. looped, layered).
<b>Reverb</b>	An electronic <b>echo</b> effect.