

Subject

Unit title

GCSE Music

Section 1: Musical Forms and Devices

Topic 1 – The Development of Music

The Baroque Era: 1600-1750

Main composers: Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Purcell

Main features of the music:

- Use of ornaments and terraced dynamics.
- Energetic rhythmic movement.
- Major/Minor key system (diatonic).
- Orchestras are mainly strings.
- Use of harpsichord, recorders, flute and horns.
- Use of basso continuo (see AOS 2).

The Classical Era: 1750-1810

Main composers: Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn

Main features of the music:

- Four sections to the orchestra.
- Melodies less complex than Baroque.
- More variety and contrast in the music.
- Frequent changes in mood, timbre and dynamics.
- Harpsichord replaced by piano.

The Romantic Era: 1810-1910

Main composers: Chopin, Liszt, Wagner, Tchaikovsky

Main features of the music:

- Thematic ideas and use of the leitmotif (see AOS 3).
- Increased variation in dynamics.
- Use of chromatic notes and extended chords.
- Further expansion of the orchestra.
- Development of the brass section.
- Descriptive music and links to other art forms

Topic 2 – Musical Form and Structure

In GCSE music, you must be able to identify the following forms:

Binary form – A B

Ternary form – A B A

Rondo form – A B A C A

Minuet and Trio – Minuet Trio
Minuet

Variation form – Theme Variation 1, 2, 3 etc

Strophic form – A A A A

Other key terms

- **Monophonic** – One unaccompanied part or voice.
- **Homophonic** – Many parts that move together. Melody and accompaniment is a type of homophonic texture.
- **Polyphonic** – 2 or more different parts that are of equal importance.
- **Unison** – All together. Could be considered monophonic if played at the same pitch.
- **Parallel motion** – Parts move in the same direction.
- **Contrary motion** – Parts move in different directions.
- **Interval** – The gap/space between 2 different notes.

Topic 3 – Devices

- **Repetition** – The exact repeat of a musical idea.
- **Contrast** – A change in the musical content.
- **Anacrusis** – A lead in. A note or beat before the first full bar of a piece.
- **Imitation** – When a musical idea is copied in another part.
- **Sequence** – The repetition of a motif (short melody) in the same part but at a different pitch.
- **Ostinato** – A musical pattern repeated many times. This is known as a riff in modern music.
- **Syncopation** – Off beat or where the weaker beats of a rhythm are emphasised.
- **Dotted rhythms** – A dot placed after a note. This increases the note by half its own value, giving a jagged effect to the rhythm.
- **Drone** – A repeated or sustained note or notes held throughout a passage of music. The drone will be diatonic and use either the Tonic or the Tonic and Dominant notes.
- **Pedal** – A held or repeated note, against which changing harmonies are heard.
- **Canon** – A device in which a melody is repeated exactly in an other part while the initial melody continues and develops.
- **Conjunct movement** – When the melody mainly moves in step.
- **Disjunct movement** – When the melody 'leaps' from one note to another.
- **Broken chord/Arpeggio** – A chord played as separate notes.
- **Alberti bass** – A type of broken chord accompaniment.
- **Regular Phrasing** – The balanced parts of melody.
- **Motif** – A short melodic or rhythmic idea that has a distinctive character.
- **Chord progressions** – A sequence or series of chords related to each other and in a particular key.
- **Modulation** – The process of changing key.

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Section 2: Music for Ensemble

Topic 1 – Timbre, Sonority and Texture

Timbre - The tone colour or tone quality associated with a particular instrument. Refer to your instrument recognition sheet for more detail.

Sonority – The relative loudness and ‘feel’ of a sound when compared with other sounds.

Texture – The number of layers/parts in a piece and how they relate to each other:

- **Monophonic** – A single melodic line with no accompaniment
- **Homophonic** – Many parts that move together (same rhythm)
- **Polyphonic** – A number of different melodic lines heard independently of each other.

Unison – When 2 or more musical parts that are the same, are played together (monophonic).

Chordal – A type of texture where the parts move together producing a series of chords (homophonic).

Layered - when more parts are added on top of each other to produce a richer texture.

Melody and accompaniment – A type of homophonic texture, where the tune is the main focus and is accompanied by other parts that move together.

Counter melody – When a new melody is heard at the same time as a previous melody.

Round – A type of **canon** in which voices sing the same melody but beginning at different times. The music repeats (goes round & round).

Topic 2 – Musical Ensembles

The word ensemble applies to the number of performers in a group. If there are lots of performers in an ensemble it becomes a choir or an orchestra.

An ensemble may group together any combination of instruments from the same family or different families.

- **Duet** – 2 performers
- **Trio** – 3 performers
- **Quartet** – 4 performers
- **Quintet** – 5 performers
- **Sextet** – 6 performers
- **Septet** – 7 performers
- **Octet** – 8 performers

Topic 3 – Chamber Music

Basso Continuo – A type of accompaniment used in the Baroque era. The term means ‘continuous bass’ and consisted of a bass instrument and a chordal instrument.

Baroque Sonata – A piece of music that is played rather than sung.

Trio Sonata – A piece of instrumental music for 3 parts.

String quartet – One of the most popular types of ensemble with in the Classical era. It consisted of 2 violins, a viola and a cello.

Topic 4 – Musical Theatre

In musical theatre, the music helps tell and support the storyline and characterisation. The audience will see the storyline or plot unfolding through the music, the acting and the dance, supported by the accompanying orchestra/band.

Different types of musical. Can you research an example of a musical for each type?

- Musical drama
- Disney musical
- Classic musical
- Romantic musical
- Musical comedy
- Sung-through musical
- Juke box musical
- Film-to-stage musical

Topic 5 – Jazz and Blues

Jazz and Blues are styles of music that emerged at the start of the 20th century in America.

- **Pentatonic scale** – A scale consisting of 5 notes.
- **Blues scale** – A minor pentatonic scale with an extra note (flattened 5th).
- **Improvisation** – When music is spontaneously created during a performance.
- **12 Bar Blues** – A type of structure used in Jazz and Blues that consists of 12 bars.
- **Swing style** – Characteristic of Jazz, in which notes are played with a relaxed dotted feel.
- **Riff** – A short motif or pattern that is repeated.
- **Rhythm section** – Typically consists of a bass player, a drummer and someone playing chords (pianist or guitarist).
- **Standard** – A Jazz or Blues song that is really popular.

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Section 3: Film Music

Topic 1 – The Film Industry

Main categories of films:

- Action
- Adventure
- Animation
- Biography
- Documentary
- Children's film
- Comedy
- Crime
- Disaster
- Fantasy
- Horror
- Musical
- Mystery
- Romance
- Sci-fi
- Spy
- Thriller
- War
- Western

There are 2 main categories of film music:

- **Diegetic** – The music is heard as part of the storyline, e.g. music heard on a speaker during the scene.
- **Non-Diegetic** – Background music that supports the on-screen action. It is only heard by the audience.

Topic 2 – Use of Musical Elements

Melody – This adds character and shape to musical ideas. It is common in film music to have a variety of different themes of equal importance. An important melodic theme will often be referred to as a

Leitmotif.

Tempo – This will often reflect the action on the screen.

Metre - The time signature used – how many beats in each bar and what type of beats they are.

Rhythm – Different length durations of notes and rests to create a pattern. There are many rhythmic devices used in film music – please refer to your film music PowerPoint resource.

Harmony – The way in which chords are used to create interest and complexity to the music.

- **Diatonic** – Chords that use notes from a specific key.
- **Chromatic** – Use of notes that are not in the key.
- **Dissonant** – Chords that use notes that do not 'fit' together well.

Intervals – The gaps between notes. Some intervals are very effective in film music in creating a certain mood, atmosphere and tension.

Fanfare – A short musical flourish or call to attention based on chords. It is often associated with an announcement or significant event.

Tonality – This refers to whether the music is Major, Minor or Atonal (no key/tone).

- **Atonal** – No sense of a tonic or 'home' key. Often used by composers to create an unsettling feeling.

Topic 3 – Musical Devices and Techniques

Leitmotif – A short musical theme or idea that is associated with a character, place, object or situation – often abbreviated to 'motif'.

Ostinato – A short repeating musical idea. In film music this could be a melody, rhythm or chord sequence. Often, other parts will be layered over the ostinato to emphasise a build up of the action or tension in the film.

Riff – Similar to the ostinato. The word riff indicates music from a popular or modern genre.

Layering - Building up the musical ideas to fill out the texture, to achieve a more powerful or interesting outcome.

Minimalism - A style of music characterised by the repetition of small cells of music, which evolve very gradually to create a hypnotic effect. Often used by film composers to establish the mood of a scene.

How music is used in film

- To create an atmosphere.
- To create a specific or geographic setting.
- To set the era, time or period, e.g. the use of classical music for a film set in the 18th century.
- To support the physical action and control the pace.
- To support the emotions of the characters and evoke certain emotions in the audience.
- To generate tension and build suspense.
- To support characters, situations and places through the use of a **leitmotif**.
- To predict events or inform the audience of impending events, e.g. when the *Jaws* theme is heard, but the shark has not yet been seen in the film. The audience are aware of the forthcoming danger, but the on-screen characters are not.
- To create a sense of space, breadth, depth i.e. the 'size' of something.

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GCSE Music	Section 4: Popular Music

Topic 1 – Rock and Pop

Main categories:

- Psychedelic Rock
- Folk/ Country Rock
- Blues Rock
- Progressive Rock
- Punk Rock
- Glam Rock
- Soft Rock
- Hard/ Heavy Rock
- Heavy Metal
- Pop Rock
- Grunge
- Britpop
- Recent Rock Styles

Topic 2 – Musical Features of Rock and Pop Music

Instruments: Rhythm Guitar, Drum Kit, Voice

Sections of a song: Intro, Pre-Verse, Verse, Refrain, Pre-Chorus, Chorus, Bridge/ Middle 8, Solo Break, Outro.

Structures:

- 1) Strophic
- 2) 32- bar song form
- 3) Verse- Chorus form
- 4) 12 bar blues

EDM (Electronic Dance Music): House, Techno, Trance, Dubstep, Indietronica

MIDI (musical instrument interface): A digital and technical system that allows electronic instruments and computers to communicate with each other.

Power chords: The name given to a chord that uses the root and the 5th (i.e. no 3rd)- used by rock guitarists

Riff: Repeated chord pattern, series or notes or musical phrase.

Hook: 'Catchy' short melodic idea.

Topic 3 –Fusion

When two or more different musical genres are blended together.

Topic 4- Bhangra

A type of fusion which features music from the Punjab region of India is combined with other popular styles.

Tala: rhythm in Indian Classical music (played by the Tabla)

Chaal: rhythm on the Dhol drum.

Instrumentation:

Sitar: Plucked stringed instrument that has a large neck. Has up to 21 strings.

Tumbi: Single metallic stringed instrument which is made out of wood.

Ektara: Single stringed instrument which can change pitch with the bamboo neck is pressed together

Sarangi: Three or four strings. Fretless and can be bowed.

Dhadd: Hour glass shaped drum, pitch can be altered with tightening the strings around the waist of the drum

Tabla: A pair of hand drums.

Dafli: Goat skin stretched over a hard wood frame.

Chimtas: Folded metal with attached metal discs.

Dhol: Two sided drum played with two wooden sticks.