

## *General Terms*

ABA form	Three parts/sections with the first and last being similar or nearly identical
Arpeggio	Playing the tones of a chord in rapid succession
Atonality	Absence of tonality, or key
Bar	(Measure): The metrical unit (for organizing beats) in a piece
Binary form	Two-part; two distinct, contrasting sections of a movement
Bebop	A jazz style from the 1940s characterized by rapid, complex improvised melodies and unusual chord progressions
Cadence	The end of a phrase; a stopping point or momentary goal
Chance (aleatory)	Music composed by the random selection of pitches, tone colors, and rhythms, developed in the 1950s by John Cage and others
Chord	(Harmony): The simultaneous sounding of different notes
Chromatic	Notes not found in the prevailing major or minor scale
Consonance	The feeling of smoothness
Counterpoint	Notes against notes; multiple lines/melodies sounding together
Diatonic	Music comprised of only the notes of a particular key
Dissonance	The feeling of tension, clashing
Etude	A “study”, or a piece designed to help a performer master specific technical difficulties
Exoticism	Use of melodies, rhythms, or instruments that suggest foreign lands; common in romantic music
Expressionism	Musical style stressing intense, subjective emotion and harsh dissonance, typical of German/Austrian music of this era
Form/Structure	A concept of organization governing the order, character, meter and key of a composition; the organization of a piece
Fugue	A “flight”; a highly developed style of contrapuntal imitation where multiple parts or voices successively take on the same theme
Harmony	(chord) The simultaneous sounding of different notes
Imitation	One voice or instrument imitates another
Improvisation	Creation of music at the same time it is performed
Interval	The distance between two pitches
Key	A collection of tones that make up a scale such that they refer to a tonic, or keynote
Keynote	(Tonic): focal-point of a scale; its center of gravity
Major/Minor	The two pillars of Western harmony, based on two of the seven modes. They tend to sound opposite on one and other: major=happy; minor=melancholy
Mass	In the Roman church, the musical service taking place during the Consecration of the Elements with five parts: <i>Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus &amp; Benedictus, Agnus Dei</i>
Measure	The metrical unit (for organizing beats) in a piece
Melody	The succession of notes in a musically expressive order; a musical line
Minimalism	Musical movement developed in the 1960s characterized by steady pulse, clear tonality, and insistent repetition of short melodic patterns, creating a hypnotic effect
Mode	One of seven scales based off of the sequence of notes in a major scale, each with a different order of whole and half steps (a different pattern) and a different tonic
Modulation	Shift from one key to another within the same piece
Motive	(motif): A musical idea; a short phrase or figure

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Movement	A principal division or section of a composition
Nationalism	Inclusion of folk songs, dances, legends, and other national material in a composition to associate it with the composer's homeland
Neoclassicism	Musical style marked by emotional restraint, balance, and clarity, inspired by the forms and style of 18 <sup>th</sup> century music, found in many works from 1920-1950
Octave	A higher or lower interval where the pitch seems to be duplicated
Ostinato	The incessant repetition of a line with varied accompaniment
Parallel Motion	When two or more melodies move by the same interval (having the same distance between them)
Pentatonic scale	Scale made up of five different tones, used in folk music and music of the far east. Often found in music of Debussy and his followers
Phrase	Any short passage unbroken in continuity and complete; a musical sentence
Pitch	A tone, note
Polyphony	Many sounds; the combination of two or more lines
Polyrhythm	Use of two or more contrasting and independent rhythms at the same time
Polytonality	Approach to pitch organization using two or more keys at one time
Primitivism	Evocation of primitive power through insistent rhythms and percussive sounds
Program music	Instrumental music associated with a story, poem, idea, or scene, often found in the Romantic period
Pulse/beat	An equal division of time
Quotation music	Works which make extensive use of quotations from earlier music
Rubato	Slight holding back or pressing forward of tempo to intensify the expression of the music
Rhythm	How music moves through time; how the music sounds against even pulses
Serialism	An expansion of the 12-tone method that uses a system to govern every aspect of a piece: note values, dynamics, formal components, etc.
Scale	The series of tones (a pattern of whole and half steps) that form a key, with the highest and lowest notes being the same (the tonic/key note)
Sequence	A phrase repeated at a higher or lower pitch
Sonata form	Associated with the Classical era: an extensive three-part form consisting of an <i>Exposition</i> , <i>Development</i> and <i>Recapitulation</i> , usually in the first movement of a multi movement piece
Syncopation	Shifting the accent of tones or chords from naturally strong beats to adjacent weaker beats
Symphony	An extended composition utilizing the orchestra, consisting of distinct movements, each with its own theme(s) (ideas)
Tempo	The rate of speed, of movement; often labeled with Italian terminology: <i>Presto</i> (very fast), <i>Allegro</i> (fast, lively), <i>Moderato</i> (moderate, medium), <i>Lento</i> (slow), <i>Grave</i> (very slow, grave)
Ternary form	(ABA): sections with the first and last being similar or nearly identical
Theme	A complete music idea
Time Signature	The division of music into equal fractional parts, regulating accents and rhythmic flow
Duple time	A time signature that is divisible by two
Triple time	A time signature that is divisible by three
Tonic	(Keynote) focal-point of a scale; its center of gravity

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- Toccatà Literally a composition of keyboard (that is "touched") written in a free and bold style; featuring flowing runs and rapid passages
- 12-tone system Method of composing in which all pitches of a composition are derived from a special ordering of the twelve chromatic tones
- Whole-tone scale Scale made up of six different tones, each a whole step away from the next, which conveys no definite sense of tonality. Often found in music of Debussy