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Elements of Music

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction: **What is Music?**

Complete this diagram on your own:

<b>Definition (in your own words)</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>
<b>Examples</b>	<b>Non-Examples</b> (What does not count as music?)

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What do you think about the Merriam-Webster Dictionary definition? Does it fully describe what music is?
2. What do you think about the video? How does it describe music?
3. Which definition do you like better? Do both work?
  - a. What do you think of the 4 listening selections? Are they all music?

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## Elements of Music

**What do you already know about these words? How might we use them to describe or talk about music?**

- Rhythm
- Melody
- Form
- Dynamics
- Timbre
- Texture
- Harmony

## Elements of Music

1. **Rhythm:** The organization of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in time; the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ in time.
2. **Melody:** An organized sequence of \_\_\_\_\_. Defines the \_\_\_\_\_ of a song or other piece of music as it unfolds; a “\_\_\_\_\_.”
3. **Form:** The \_\_\_\_\_ ordering of a piece of music; the resultant \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the music. The “shape” of a piece of music.
4. **Dynamics:** The \_\_\_\_\_ of sound, the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ of a musical passage.
5. **Timbre:** What particular notes, instruments, or voices “\_\_\_\_\_.” Sound \_\_\_\_\_ or “tone \_\_\_\_\_.”

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- 6. Texture:** The blend of various sounds and melodic \_\_\_\_\_ occurring \_\_\_\_\_ in a piece of music. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ between the different \_\_\_\_\_ in a musical work or performance. “How many different \_\_\_\_\_?”
- 7. Harmony:** The \_\_\_\_\_ sounding of \_\_\_\_\_ pitches, often referred to as \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. Simultaneous sounding: played at the same time; combination

## Rhythm

- **Beat:** Underlying \_\_\_\_\_; fundamental \_\_\_\_\_ of rhythmic organization.
- **Tempo:** The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ at which the accented and unaccented beats of the meter follow one another.
- **Accents:** Notes in music that are given special \_\_\_\_\_, usually by being played \_\_\_\_\_ than other notes surrounding them.
- **Meter:** A background of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ beats in a simple, regular, repeating \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Syncopation:** An \_\_\_\_\_ or other \_\_\_\_\_ that falls in between main \_\_\_\_\_.

**As you listen to the following selections of music, describe what you notice about the tempo. Is the song fast? Slow? Does the tempo change or stay the same? Write down your observations.**

In the Hall of the Mountain King

Thriller

Clair de Lune

Don't Stop Believin'

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**Rhythmic Notation:**

whole note      half note      quarter note      eighth note      sixteenth note

4 beats      2 beats      1 beat      1/2 beat      1/4 beat

A musical staff with a treble clef showing five rhythmic values: a whole note (4 beats), a half note (2 beats), a quarter note (1 beat), an eighth note (1/2 beat), and a sixteenth note (1/4 beat).

whole note      half note      quarter note      eighth note      sixteenth note

4 beats      2 beats      1 beat      1/2 beat      1/4 beat

A musical staff with a treble clef showing five rhythmic rests: a whole rest (4 beats), a half rest (2 beats), a quarter rest (1 beat), an eighth rest (1/2 beat), and a sixteenth rest (1/4 beat).

dotted half note = three quarter notes      dotted quarter note = three eighth notes

A musical staff with a treble clef showing a dotted half note followed by three quarter notes, and a dotted quarter note followed by three eighth notes.

The dot adds half of the regular value of the note attached to the dot.

What would this sound like? (Try clapping the rhythm)

Two musical staves in 4/4 time. The first staff shows a sequence of eighth notes grouped in pairs, with numbers 2 through 7 above them. The second staff shows a sequence of eighth notes grouped in pairs, with numbers 2 through 6 above them.

**Meter** - A background of stressed and unstressed beats in a simple, regular, repeating pattern.

- Duple Meter -
- Triple Meter -
- Simple Meter -
- Compound Meter -

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Clair De Lune - What meter?

A Taste of Honey - What meter(s)?

Anthony Hopkins - What meter?

Tchaikovsky - What meter?

Take 5 - What meter?

**Syncopation:** An accent or other note that falls in between main beats.

- After watching the video about syncopation, describe syncopation in your own words.

**Listen to the following selections of music. Do you hear the syncopation?**

The Rite of Spring

Mambo

Bohemian Rhapsody

Haydn

Harry Potter

Here Comes the Sun

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**Tempo:** The speed of the beat. The rate at which the accented and unaccented beats of the meter follow one another.

- **Presto:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Allegro:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Allegretto:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Moderato:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Andante:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Adagio:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Largo:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is a melody?** (Provide your definition.)

**Melody:** An organized sequence of pitches. Defines the identity of a song or other piece of music as it unfolds; a "tune."

- **Motive:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- **Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- **1-2-3 Method:**

## Form

**What do you already know about musical forms?** (What forms are you familiar with?)

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**Binary/Ternary Form:**

**Binary:** \_\_\_\_\_

Example: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ternary:** \_\_\_\_\_

Example: \_\_\_\_\_

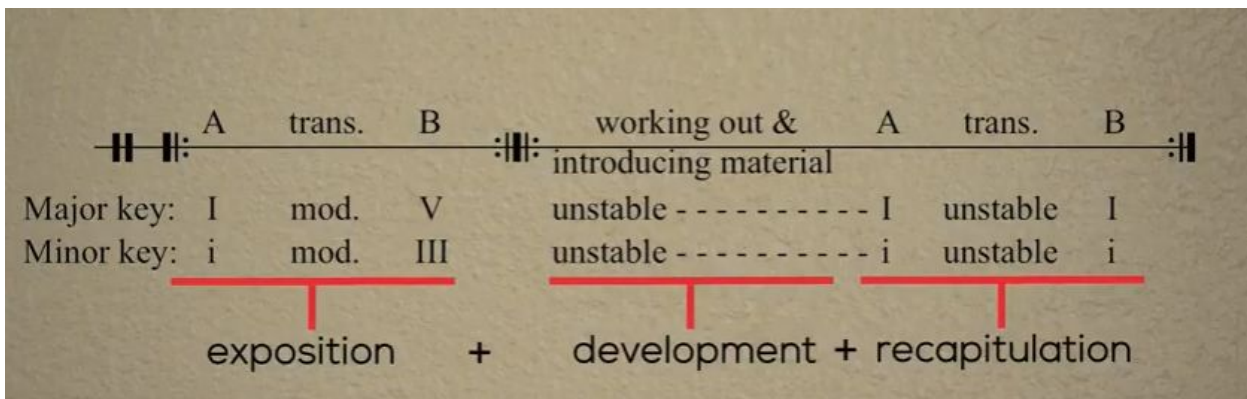
**Sonata Form:**

Sonata form is about \_\_\_\_\_

Harmonic instability begins during the transition section of the \_\_\_\_\_

Harmonic tension increases during the \_\_\_\_\_

The tension is finally resolved during the \_\_\_\_\_



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**Rondo:**

One \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ alternating with other \_\_\_\_\_.

ABACA coda, ABACABA, ABACADA, etc.

Examples: \_\_\_\_\_

**Theme and Variations:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Example: \_\_\_\_\_

**Listen to Haydn's "Surprise" Symphony. Describe what you notice about the "volume of sound."  
(Dynamics)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Dynamics:**

- p (pp, ppp): "piano;" \_\_\_\_\_
- mp: "mezzo piano;" \_\_\_\_\_
- mf: "mezzo forte;" \_\_\_\_\_
- f (ff, fff): "forte;" \_\_\_\_\_
- **Other Markings:**



Crescendo:  
Get louder



Decrescendo:  
Get softer

*fp*

Forte Piano: Play a note loud, then suddenly drop down to a piano dynamic.



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**Timbre:** What particular notes, instruments, or voices “sound like.” Sound quality or “tone color.”

- Why is there a difference in Timbre between instruments? (Discuss and write)

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- A few common words to describe timbre:

- Reedy, Brassy, Clear, Bright, Focused, Unfocused, Breathy, Dark, Rounded, Piercing, Strident, Harsh, Warm, Mellow, Resonant, Heavy, Light, Flat
- What other words would you use to describe timbre?

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**What do you hear?** How would you describe the timbre in each of these examples? List at least 3 words per instrument with at least one new word per instrument.

- Example 1 (Saxophone and Melodica):

- Saxophone:
- Melodica:

- Example 2:

- Marimba
- Alto Saxophone
- Piano
- Clarinet
- Timpani
- Bassoon
- Harpsichord
- Trombone
- Oboe

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- Guitar
- Flute
- Xylophone
- English Horn
- French Horn
- Bass Clarinet
- Vibraphone
- Drum Set
- Cello
- Trumpet
- Organ
- Recorder
- Harp

**Texture:** The blend of various sounds and melodic lines occurring simultaneously in a piece of music. Relationships and interactions between the different parts in a musical work or performance. “How many sounds?”

- Monophony: \_\_\_\_\_
- Homophony: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Polyphony: \_\_\_\_\_

**Harmony:** The simultaneous sounding of different pitches, often referred to as chords.