

Fundamentals of Music

1. **TIMBRE** - tone quality or “color” of a musical sound
 - a. **Medium** - object or being that produces the sound
 - i. Vocal, Instrumental, or both
 - ii. Solo or ensemble (duet, trio, choir, orchestra, etc.)
 - iii. Instrument Type (aerophone, chordophone, idiophone, membranophone)
2. **PITCH** - a tone determined by its frequency level
 - a. **Tuning system** - the pitches common to the musical tradition
 - b. **Scale** - the pitches used in a particular performance arranged in order
 - c. **Interval** - the difference between two pitches
 - d. **Range** - all the pitches that a voice or instrument can potentially produce
 - e. **Melody** - an organized succession of pitches forming a musical idea
 - f. **Melodic Contour** - the general direction and shape of a melody
 - g. **Ornamentation** - an embellishment or decoration of the melody
 - h. **Text Setting** - Rhythmic relationship of words to melody
 - i. **Syllabic** - one pitch per syllable
 - ii. **Melisma** - several pitches per syllable
 - i. **Mode** - a musical system used as the basis for composition and improvisation
3. **RHYTHM** - organization of the duration of sound
 - a. **Beat** - a regular pulsation
 - b. **Accent** - an emphasized beat
 - c. **Tempo** - relative rate of speed of the beat
 - d. **Meter** - a system of grouping beats into individual units
 - e. **Syncopation** - accenting on a normally de-emphasized beat
 - f. **Free Rhythm** - music with no regular pulsation
 - g. **Rhythmic Density** - quantity of notes between periodic accents or over a specific unit of time
4. **PHONIC STRUCTURE (Texture)** - relationship between different sounds
 - a. **Monophony** - a single line of music
 - b. **Polyphony** - multiple lines of music
 - i. **Homophony** - multiple lines of music expressing the same musical idea
 - ii. **Counterpoint or Dysphony** - multiple lines of music expressing independent musical ideas
 - c. **Heterophony** - multiple performers playing simultaneous variations of the same line of music
5. **DYNAMICS** - volume of a musical sound
6. **FORM** - underlying structure of a musical performance
7. **EXTRA-MUSICAL** - relationship of a music to non-musical phenomena