

Accent --An emphasized beat

Aerophone-- Ethnomusicological classification referring to instruments that require air to produce sound: namely, flutes, reeds, trumpets, and bellows-driven instruments.

Beat-- A regular pulsation.

Chordophone-- Ethnomusicological classification referring collectively to the four types of stringed instruments: lutes, zithers, harps, lyres.

Crescendo-- A gradual increase in volume.

Decrescendo-- A gradual decrease in volume.

Definite pitch-- A sound with a dominating frequency level.

Drone-- A continuous sound.

Dynamics-- The volume of a musical sound.

Electrophone-- Ethnomusicological classification that refers to instruments that require electricity to produce sound, such as the synthesizer.

Fiddle-- A generic term used to describe a bowed lute. Also, a slang term for a violin.

Form-- Underlying structure of a musical performance.

Free rhythm-- Music with no regular pulsation.

Fret-- A bar or ridge found on the fingerboard of chordophones that enables performers to produce different melodic pitches with consistent frequency levels.

Heterophony-- Multiple performers playing simultaneous variations of the same line of music.

Homophony-- Multiple lines of music expressing the same musical idea.

Idiophone-- Ethnomusicological classification encompassing instruments that themselves vibrate to produce sound, such as rattles, bells, and various other kinds of percussion.

Indefinite pitch-- A sound with no single dominating frequency level.

Independent polyphony-- Multiple lines of music expressing independent musical ideas as a cohesive whole.

Interval-- The difference between two pitches.

Lamellophone-- A type of idiophone that uses vibrating "lamellae" or strips of material, usually metal, to produce sound.

Lute-- A type of chordophone with a resonating body and a neck with a fingerboard that enables individual strings to sound different pitches.

Medium-- The source of a sound, be it instrumental or voice. Also, the term for a person in a possessed or trance state.

Melisma-- term for a text-setting style in which more than one pitch is sung per syllable.

Melodic contour-- The general direction and shape of a melody.

Melody-- An organized succession of pitches forming a musical idea.

Membranophone-- Ethnomusicological classification referring to instruments such as drums that use a vibrating stretched membrane as the principle means of sound production.

Meter-- A division of music beats into regular groupings.

Monophony-- Music with a single melodic line.

Ornamentation-- An embellishment or decoration of a melody.

Pentatonic scale-- A scale consisting of only five pitches.

Phonic structure-- The relationship between different sounds in a given piece; can be either monophony or some form of polyphony.

Pitch-- A tone's specific frequency level, measured in Hertz (Hz).

Polyphony-- The juxtaposition or overlapping of multiple lines of music.

Range-- All the pitches that a voice or instrument can potentially produce.

Reeds-- A type of aerophone that uses a vibrating reed to produce sound.

Rhythm-- The lengths, or durations, of sounds as patterns in time.

Rhythmic density-- The quantity of notes between periodic accents or over a specific unit of time.

Ritard-- A musical term for slowing the tempo, normally at the end of a piece.

Sachs-Hornbostel System-- Standard classification system for musical instruments created by Curt Sachs and Erik M. von Hornbostel, which divides musical instruments into four categories: aerophones, chordophones, idiophones, and membranophones.

Syllabic-- A text setting in which only one pitch is sung per syllable.

Syncopation-- The accenting of a normally weak beat.

Tempo-- The relative rate of speed of a beat.

Text Setting-- The rhythmic relationship of words to melody; can be syllabic (one pitch per syllable) or melismatic (more than one pitch per syllable).

Timbre-- The tone quality or “color” of a musical sound.

Trumpet-- A type of aerophone that requires the performer to vibrate his or her lips to produce sound.

Tuning system-- The pitches common to a musical tradition.

Zither-- A type of chordophone in which the strings stretch across the length of the resonating body