Glossary

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| Term | Definition |
| **Accompaniment** | A musical part or parts that support the melody |
| **Active listening** | Listening to music and responding by doing something e.g. clapping back rhythms |
| **Adagio** | Play slowly 70 bpm |
| **Allegro** | Play quickly 120 bpm |
| **Andante** | Play at a walking pace 100 bpm |
| **Bar** | A segment of time in music that is used to group together beats. In a 4/4 time signature, each bar must contain the value of 4 crotchet beats |
| **Bass Line** | The lowest line of a piece of music, usually played by the bass instrument |
| **Beat** | A basic unit of time marking out the speed at which the music is played. |
| **Body percussion** | Stamping, clapping, clicking and patsch (tapping the thighs) to create rhythms |
| **Call and Response** | Call and response is a performance style with a singing lead who is imitated by a chorus of followers |
| **Calypso** | Calypso is a style of music as well as a style of dance and song which originated in the Caribbean. It is a descendant of African and West Indian folk music and resembles the samba of Latin America |
| **Chords** | A group of (usually three) notes that provide a harmony underneath a tune |
| **Chord progressions** | Moving from chord to chord at the correct time |
| **Composition** | The process of coming up with your own musical ideas that may or may not be written down |
| **Counter-melody** | A second tune that is usually performed at the same time as the main tune |
| **Crescendo** | Getting louder |
| **Crotchet** | A one-beat note |
| **Diminuendo** | Getting quieter |
| **Dotted rhythm** | A rhythm that alternates longer (dotted) notes with shorter notes creating a bouncy feel |
| **Dynamics** | Volume |
| **Ensemble** | Making music with other people |
| **Extended Harmony** | Two parts moving together and singing at the same time. |
| **Forte** | Loud, f |
| **Harmony** | Music that supports the melody, adding to the depth of the piece e.g. chords or individual melody lines |
| **Imitation** | Repeating a phrase of music (pitches and/ or rhythms) in response to a first hearing |
| **Improvisation** | Making music up on the spot. A framework may be given e.g. 4 underlying chords |
| **Instrumentation** | The instruments used in a piece of music |
| **Largo** | Play slowly |
| **Major** | A major feel in music describes a bright, lively piece with a happy feel. |
| **Melody** | Tune |
| **Minim** | A two-beat note |
| **Minor** | A minor feel in music describes a sombre, melancholic sounding piece. |
| **Moderato** | Play at a moderate pace |
| **Musical features** | Different characteristics of a piece of music e.g. tempo and dynamics |
| **Notation** | Ways of writing music down. This can include guitar tab, drum notation, Western classical notation and graphic score notation |
| **Off-beat rhythms** | Rhythms where the emphasised beats are not where the pulse lies |
| **Ostinato** | A pattern of rhythms or pitches that are repeated in a cycle |
| **Percussion** | Instruments that produce sound when shaken or hit with a hand, stick or beater |
| **Performance** | The act of playing or singing music to other people |
| **Piano** | Quiet, p |
| **Phrasing** | Shaping a tune to make it sound more musical |
| **Pitch** | How high or low notes are played |
| **Pitched** | An instrument which can play high or low notes |
| **Presto** | Play very quickly 140-150 bpm |
| **Pulse** | The underlying and steady beat in a phrase or piece of music |
| **Quaver** | A quicker note that lasts for half a beat (half of a crotchet) |
| **Rap** | A type of popular music of US black origin in which words are recited rapidly and rhythmically over an instrumental backing. |
| **Repetition** | The act of copying notes and/ or rhythms in a section of music |
| **Rest** | A pause or break in the music |
| **Riff** | A short repeated phrase in popular music and jazz, typically used as an introduction or refrain in a song |
| **Round** | A piece of music where two or more groups of people sing the same tune but start at different times (often after 2 or 4 bars) |
| **Rhythm** | The changing patterns of beats that make up a piece of music |
| **Rhythm grid** | A system of writing music down by putting dots or symbols in a grid |
| **Score** | A piece of music that is written down |
| **Solo** | Playing on your own or playing your own part alongside other performers |
| **Staff notation** | A system of writing music down using 5 horizontal lines and Western classical note values including crotchets, quavers, minims and rests |
| **Syncopated** | Rhythms where the emphasis is not on the main beat – common in jazz music |
| **Tempo** | The word used to identify or describe speed |
| **Texture** | How the tempo, melodic, and harmonic materials are combined in layers in a musical composition. |
| **Time signature** | A system of two numbers at the start of a piece of music that tell the musician how many beats (and of what type) are in each bar, also called metre |
| **Tune** | A melody in a piece of music |
| **Tuned** | An instrument capable of playing different pitches e.g. a violin or a glockenspiel |
| **Unison** | Two or more musicians performing music of the same pitch, rhythm and melodic shape, at the same time |
| **Untuned** | An instrument such as a snare drum that does not play different pitches |

