

what are they?

The Musical Elements are the building blocks of music. They are all inter-connected in any piece of musical activity or song.





Pulse is what gives music its beat in the background. This beat can be strong, as in a march or a jig, or it can be weak. People can respond to the pulse in music by tapping their feet or clapping along to the beat.

Duration

2

Duration refers to the length of a sound, whether it is long or short. A gong makes a long sound while wood blocks make short sounds.



3

The Tempo of a piece of music is the speed or pace of the underlying beat. This can differ according to the genre of music, the instruments used or the particular player. Tempo can also be used to create different moods in music.



4

Pitch is the quality that makes it possible to judge sounds as being "higher" and "lower" and the arrangement of these sounds which produces melody.

Dynamics 5

Dynamics refers to the level of sound generated in a piece of music, either loud or soft. Dynamics can be determined by the number of players or singers and by the degree of energy used. Dynamics can also be determined by the interpretation of the performer.

Structure

Structure refers to how a piece of music or a song is organised or arranged. Structure is achieved through the use of repetition, pattern and contrast. In songs, this can refer to the organisation of verses and chorus in a pattern.



7

Timbre, also known as tone colour or tone quality, refers to the sound quality or variability of sound. Timbre is what makes a particular musical instrument or human voice have a different sound from another, even when they play or sing the same note.

rexture

Texture refers to the layers of sound in a piece of music or a song and with how various sounds are put together. This can range from a solo instrument to a variety of sound sources playing together.



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Style is the application of all other musical elements: the selection of instruments (timbre), the combination of sounds (texture), the speed (tempo) and degree of loudness (dynamics) with which they are played, the melodic (pitch) and rhythmic patterns (duration, pulse) and the manner in which the music is organised (structure).





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