



INSTRUMENT AND VOICES

- The voice is an instrument: air makes the vocal folds vibrate, while the mouth shapes the sound.
- Breath control supports longer phrases and changes in volume.
- Vocal range is the span between a singer's lowest and highest comfortable notes.
- Intonation is accurate pitch, diction is clear words and projection helps the voice carry.
- Unison uses one vocal line; harmony combines different pitches to create a layered texture.



MUSICAL ELEMENTS

- Timbre is the distinctive quality of a sound. Combining contrasting timbres changes the character of an ensemble.
- Texture describes the number of musical layers and how they interact. It may be thin or thick.
- Unison creates one musical layer; harmony and accompaniment add further layers around the melody.
- A chord is a group of notes sounded together. A sequence of chords can accompany and support a melody.
- Changes in dynamics, tempo, articulation, timbre and texture shape phrases, distinguish sections and create contrast.



MUSICAL NOTATION

- A staff has five lines and four spaces. A clef fixes the pitch names; the treble clef is used for higher-pitched parts.
- A time signature organises beats in each bar. In 4/4 there are four crotchet beats; in 3/4 there are three.
- Duration is how long a sound or silence lasts: semibreve = 4 beats, minim = 2, crotchet = 1 and quaver = 1/2.
- Bar lines divide music into equal groups of beats; rests show measured silence and repeat signs show that music is performed again.



HISTORY OF MUSIC

- How Can I Keep from Singing? began as a nineteenth-century American hymn and has since been rearranged in different styles.
- ABBA formed in Sweden in 1972. Their melodies, harmonies and pop structures influenced later artists.
- David Bowie's changing sound and identity helped shape rock and pop music.
- School of Rock began as a 2003 film and became a stage musical in 2015, combining music, drama and movement.
- Young Voices brings music from different periods and traditions together through modern arrangements.



MUSICAL ELEMENTS

- An ensemble is a group performing together, with each part contributing to the musical texture.
- The melody is the main tune, harmony adds different notes and the accompaniment supports the melody.
- Balance is the volume of each part; blend is how successfully the sounds combine.
- Accurate timing keeps parts together, while accurate intonation keeps them in tune.
- Visual and aural cues signal entries, endings and changes. Phrasing, articulation and dynamics add expression.



APPRECIATE AND UNDERSTAND A RANGE OF MUSIC

- A musical style has recognisable features, which may include particular instruments, rhythms, timbres, structures and vocal techniques.
- An arrangement is a version of existing music. Changing its tempo, instruments, harmony, texture or structure can alter its mood and meaning.
- A massed choir creates a powerful texture by combining many voices in unison and harmony, supported by accompaniment and amplification.
- Recording technology can layer separately recorded parts; mixing controls their balance, position and overall sound.
- Musical effects are created by elements working together, so a precise explanation links an audible feature to its impact on the listener.



INSPIRATIONAL PEOPLE AND CAREERS

- ABBA was formed by Agnetha Fältskog, Björn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad. Benny and Björn wrote most of the group's songs; Agnetha and Anni-Frid created its distinctive vocal sound.
- Andrew Lloyd Webber composed the stage music for School of Rock, combining rock timbres with musical-theatre storytelling and ensemble writing.
- A musical director interprets the music and coordinates performers; a vocal arranger adapts a song for different voice parts.
- Music producers and sound engineers shape, balance, amplify and mix the sound of live and recorded performances.
- These careers require musical knowledge, creative decision-making, careful listening, communication and teamwork.

KEY VOCABULARY

chord – notes sounded together

accompaniment – a part supporting the melody

blend – how well sounds combine

articulation – how notes are performed

stave – five lines used to write music

harmony – different notes heard together

balance – the relative volume of parts

intonation – accuracy of pitch

cue – a signal to begin or change

time signature – the number and type of beats in each bar