

Listening Diary



Name:

Form:



MUSICAL



Reference

Section

VOCABULARY

Here are lots of useful musical words to help you improve written and descriptive work when describing music.

Use as many as you can. The charts include words from the year 7 vocab sheets through to the year 9 sheets. You can also use terminology provided in specific year books too.

The musical ELEMENTS (the main ingredients)				
Dynamics	Volume		Melody	The tune / main line
Tempo	Speed		Silence	A rest or break in the music
Structure	How music is organised (eg verse / chorus / introduction / section 1)		Texture	How the sounds combine (rich, sparse, busy, thin, just one instrument, a quartet, a full band)
Timbre	Type of sound or instrument		Duration	Length of sound
Pitch	High or Low (or medium)		Tonality	Major or Minor chords and keys
Rhythm	Different lengths of note			

Now look at the next side for ideas on how to get detailed information about each of these areas:

Dynamics		
pp	pianissimo	very quiet
p	piano	quiet
mp	mezzo piano	medium quiet
mf	mezzo forte	medium loud
f	forte	loud
ff	fortissimo	very loud
<	crescendo or cresc.	getting louder
>	Diminuendo or dim.	getting quieter

Tempo	
largo	v slow
andante	walking pace (steady)
moderato	medium speed
allegro	fast
presto	v fast
accel. / accelerando	getting faster
rit. / ritardando	getting slower

Features & Techniques	
pedal	One note – held or repeated
ostinato	A repeated pattern
cluster chord	Random collection of notes
scale	Moving up or down by step
chromatic scale	Moving by half step
motif	Important melodic idea / theme
Major or Minor	Happy or Sad tonality / chord
Leitmotif	Theme for a specific character
legato / staccato	Notes played smooth / short
mickey mousing	Music copies motion on screen
hit point	Where a sound is placed to match visual moment exactly
accompaniment	the backing part
chord	notes played together
accented	notes played with force / hit

Structure	
intro	the opening / start
verse	main 'story' section
chorus	catchy repeated bit
outro or coda	the ending section
instrumental	no singer / only instr
bridge	section which joins

Texture	
solo section	features 1 main player
tutti section	section where all play
sparse texture	only a few players
rich texture	where lots play
unison	all play exactly same
melody & accompaniment	where some instruments have the tune & others accomp.

Rhythm	
repeated rhythm	rhythm again & again
varied rhythm	the rhythm changes
syncopated	lots of notes off beat
simple or complex	easy or tricky
metre	feel of 3 beats or 4 etc

TIMBRE – don't just name the instrument. Say what they are playing ... the melody or the accompaniment, long or short notes, f or p dynamic. Are they in a group or playing a solo?

Piece:

Composer / Artist:



1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

Piece:

Composer / Artist:



1 _____

2 _____

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4 _____

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Piece:

Composer / Artist:

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Piece:

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1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

Topic	Teacher feedback / Personal observation / Notes

FEEDBACK



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Feedback Notes

Use these boxes:

- When your teacher or a colleague gives you some feedback in class.
- When you watch or hear work by other pupils which gives you ideas for ways you could improve your work.
- When you simply want to write ideas down somewhere before you forget them.

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