

Elements of Music Chart

Duration	<p>The element of music that relates to time, which includes beat, rhythm, metre, and tempo.</p> <p>Consider the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How would you describe the rhythm?• Are short or long notes being primarily used?• How does the rhythm affect the overall energy of the piece?• How might you represent the length (duration) of the notes?• What tempo markings (e.g., allegro, vivace, largo) do you notice?• How would a different tempo change your experience of the music?• How does an increase in tempo affect the mood of the piece?• What time signature(s) do you notice in the music?
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Pitch	<p>The element of music that relates to the highness or lowness of a tone.</p> <p>Consider the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How might someone move their body to show how individual pitches go up, go down, or stay the same, and how do they connect to form a melody?• What patterns do you notice in the melody (e.g., repetition, sequence)?• How could you show others how this melody moves without singing/playing it for them?• What words might someone use to describe the character of this song/piece of music (e.g., cheerful, bright, bold, intense)?• In musical terms, how would you describe the tonality of this piece of music (e.g., pentatonic, major, minor, chromatic?)• What accidentals or key signatures do you observe in the music?
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Dynamics and other expressive controls	<p>The element of music that relates to volume.</p> <p>Consider the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What range of dynamics is being used?• What dynamic markings do you notice in the music?• How does a decrease in volume affect the feeling or mood in the music?• What dynamic level would support the mood of this piece?• How does the compose use expressive controls (e.g., staccato/legato or crescendo/decrescendo) to create contrasts and changes in mood? <p>Comparing two pieces of music/songs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do these two pieces of music/songs use dynamics differently to create uniquely expressive pieces?
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Timbre	<p>The element of music that relates to the quality of a sound (e.g., sound of a doorbell versus a laugh, a trumpet versus a clarinet, or two people speaking).</p> <p>Consider the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the primary instruments used by the composer?• Which pitched or non-pitched percussion instrument(s) are used to accompany this piece of music/song?• Why do you think the composer chose specific instruments for this work?• What mood do the instruments in this piece create?• How would changing the instruments change the effect?• What words might someone use to describe the tone, colour, or timbre of this song/musical work (e.g., rich, bright, mellow, or piercing)?
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Texture/ harmony	<p>The element of music that relates to the layers of sounds within music.</p> <p>Consider the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Which instruments or found sounds are used to accompany this piece of music/song?• What is the rhythmic relationship between the melody and the accompaniment?• How does the accompaniment in this piece of music/song reflect the story/poem/lyrics?• What similarities and differences do you notice between the melodies and rhythms?• How might someone graphically portray the layering of melodies in this piece of music?• Is the accompaniment rhythmic, melodic, or choral?
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Form	<p>The element of music that relates to the way musical pieces are organized.</p> <p>Consider the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How is the music organized?• Using musical terms, how would you describe the overall form and effect of the music?• How does the music change from one section to the next?• What elements of music does the composer use to vary the original theme?• How did the composer use form to suggest certain images?
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