

What to Listen For in Music - Choices

Instrumentation: choir, band, orchestra, tenor, bass, soprano, alto, strings, brass, keyboards, woodwinds, percussion, solo, duet, trio, quartet, ensemble

Timbre: shimmering, mellow, calm, dark, bright, rich, resonant, wavy, piercing, harsh, light, clear, whiny, breathy, buzzing, dull, muted, fragile, thin, heavy, warm, velvety, reedy, pure, vibrant, coarse, shrill, raspy, brassy, gravelly

Beat: strong, weak, no beat, downbeat, upbeat, anacrusis, duple meter, triple meter, compound meter, simple meter, cut time, common time, time signature, on-beat, off-beat, meter, cross beat, backbeat

Rhythm: quarter note, quarter rest, half note, half rest, whole note, whole rest, eighth note, eighth rest, note, rest, sixteenth note, sixteenth rest, pattern, syncopation

Melody: ascending, descending, going up, going down, stay the same, phrase, do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, skip, step, leap, half step, whole step

Tonality: major, minor, pentatonic, atonal, hexatonic, diatonic, chromatic, modal, ionian, dorian, phrygian, lydian, mixolydian, aeolian, locrian, scale degree, tonic, supertonic, median, subdominant, dominant, submediant, leading tone, tonal center, key, key signature, diminished, augmented

Harmony: interval, unison, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, octave, chord, consonance, dissonance

Form: introduction, interlude, coda, AB, ABA, ABACA, AABA, AABB, sequence, theme & variations, rondo, canon, round, strophic, ternary, binary, verse & refrain, call & response, fugue, recapitulation, bridge, sonata

Articulation: smoothly connected, separated, legato, staccato, slur, phrase mark, accent, tenuto, marcato, accent, sforzando, pizzicato, fermata

Dynamics: soft, medium, loud, quiet, getting louder, getting softer, crescendo, decrescendo, pianissimo, mezzo piano, piano, mezzo forte, forte, fortissimo, diminuendo, morendo

Style: blues, bluegrass, folk, pop, popular, classical, country, gospel, jazz, opera, rock, rap, world music, choral, orchestral

Text/Lyrics: English, Italian, German, French, Spanish, lyrics

Tempo: slow, medium, fast, getting faster, getting slower, accelerando, ritardando, rallentando, largo, adagio, andante, moderato, allegro, vivace, presto, a tempo

Mood: joyful, sad, angry, lively, mysterious, sweet, animato, cantabile, dolce, espressivo, furioso, lacrimoso, marcato, vivace, calm, relaxed, animated, sentimental, aggressive, bleak, dreamy, eerie, gloomy, magical, spooky, urgent

Texture: thick, thin, monophonic, homophonic, polyphonic, heterophonic

