

Music Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary—

- **Pulse** – the regular heartbeat of the music; its steady beat.
- **Rhythm** – long and short sounds or patterns that happen over the pulse.
- **Pitch** – high and low sounds.
- **Tempo** – the speed of the music; fast or slow or in-between.
- **Dynamics** – how loud or quiet the music is.
- **Timbre** – all instruments, including voices, have a certain sound quality e.g. the trumpet has a very different sound quality to the violin.
- **Texture** – layers of sound. Layers of sound working together make music very interesting to listen to.
- **Structure** – every piece of music has a structure e.g. an introduction, verse and chorus ending.
- **Notation** – the link between sound and symbol.

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| Year 6 | Articulation, diction, Enunciate, block, 12-bar Blues, Bop/ Scat, dynamics, tempo, timbre, rhythm, pitch, structure, drum machine, effects processor, film score, special effects, theme, motif, ensemble, bass/ treble clef, gamelan, harmony, harmonise, improvise/improvisation, loop, the “off beat”, syncopation, spotting, sound maker, swing, Folk [music], editing, splicing, choreograph, beat/pulse, recording studio |
| Year 5 | Pitch, rhythm, timbre, dynamics, tempo, duration, texture, accompaniment, body percussion, call and response, chord [sounds], composer, chord sequence, sound effects, improvisation, lyrics, melodic pattern, meter [song lines], notation, phrase/phrasing, orchestration, score, melody instrument, structure, accent, acoustic sound, articulation, attack, balance, bass, descant, coda, cue, cyclic pattern, decay [of sound], drone, timpani, electronic music, synthesiser, ensemble, entry point, expression [musicality], glockenspiel, graphic notation, harmony, Jazz style, layers, melody, polyrhythm, prelude, processed sound, rest, rondo, round, sampling, strong beat, triad, unison, word setting, concerto, symphony, choral |
| Year 4 | Accompaniment, body percussion, call and response, conductor, duet, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, rhythm, pitch, structure, improvise, internalise, interval, lyrics, melodic phrase, motif, musical elements, notation, ostinato/ostinato, pentatonic, programme music, pulse/ beat, rest [musical silence], scale, score, glockenspiel, xylophone, castanets |
| Year 3 | Pitch, rhythm, timbre, dynamics, tempo, duration, texture, accompaniment, body, percussion, tuned percussion, untuned percussion, call and response, cluster [sounds], conductor, drone, glockenspiel, hatha [Indian dance movements], improvise, lyrics, melodic phrase, musical elements, notation, ostinato, pentatonic scale, programme music, score, step movement, structure, track list, xylophone, jingle, round, oscillate |
| Year 2 | Acoustic, layering, sound makers, accompaniment, musical elements, structure, body percussion, notation, tempo, call and response, ostinato, texture, chord, phrase, timbre, drone, pitch [high/ low sounds], tuned percussion, duration, movement [of sound], untuned percussion, dynamics [volume], playing methods, xylophone, free/arrhythmic, pulse and beat, produce, improvisation, score, sound quality |
| Year 1 | body percussion, ostinato, pizzicato, duration, free/ arrhythmic [no beat], drone, graphic score, Melodic phrase, notation [dot/graphic], score, beater, claves, guiro, cabasa, woodblock, structure, timbre[sound quality], tuned percussion, untuned percussion, volume [dynamics], interlude, claves, maracas, chime , bars, sustained [sounds], loud, soft, short [sounds], instrument, voice |
| FS | Song, cymbal, accompany, tune, shaker, improvise, steady beat, conduct, high [sounds], percussion, conductor, low [sounds], tambourine, perform, chant, triangle, present [performance], compose, drum, applause, soundscape, evaluate, sequence, listen, fast, slow, gentle, near, far, audience |