

Sections of the Orchestra:-

STRINGS

Consisting : Violin, Viola, Cello,
Double Bass and Harp

☐

WOODWIND

Consisting: Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet,
Saxophone and Bassoon

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☐

BRASS

Consisting: Trumpet, Trombone, Horn
and Tuba

☐

PERCUSSION

Consisting: Tuned - Glockenspiel,
Xylophone, Marimba, Metalophone etc

☐

Consisting : Untuned - Drumkit, Timpani,
Triangle, Cymbals, Tambourine etc

☐

Each section has concepts associated with them:-

STRINGS:-

BOWING

When strings are played with a bow

☐

ARCO

Another word for Bowing

☐

PLUCKING

Using fingers to pick the strings

☐

PIZZICATO

Sound made by plucking the strings
with fingers

☐

STRUMMING

Sound produced by drawing fingers or
a plectrum across the strings

☐

TREMOLANDO

Trembling, quivering effect

☐

HARMONICS

The high eerie like sounds produced on a
bowed string instrument by lightly touching
the string at certain points. On a guitar this
will sound "bell like".

☐

WOODWIND:-

BLOWING

Sound produced by blowing into or across the mouth piece

☐

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FLUTTER TONGUING

A method of tonguing in which the player rolls the letter 'r'. It is particularly effective on flute but also used on brass

☐

BRASS:-

BLOWING

Sound produced by blowing into or across the mouth piece

☐

MUTED

Using a device which reduces the volume or alters the sound of an instrument

☐

CON SORDINO

Musical term for muted

☐

PERCUSSION:-

STRIKING

Sound is produced by hitting an instrument

☐

Groupings of Instruments:-

RIPIENO

The main, larger group of instruments in a Concerto Grosso. (Baroque Period)

☐

CONCERTINO

The smaller, solo, group of players in a Concerto Grosso. (Baroque Period)

☐

Scottish Instruments:-

ACCORDION

Instrument with a keyboard in which the sounds are produced by squeezing bellows with the arms

☐

FIDDLE

Another name for the violin

☐

Instrumental effects:-

ROLLS	A very fast repetition of a note on a percussion instrument like snare drum or timpani.	☐
DISTORTION	An electronic effect used in rock music to colour the sound of the electric guitar	☐
REVERB	An electronic effect which can give the impression of different hall acoustics	☐
HARMONICS	Harmonics can be produced by a number of instruments. By lightly touching the string of a bowed stringed instrument at certain points for example, a high eerie sound is produced. On a guitar or harp these have a bell-like quality.	☐

General instrumental concepts:-

STACCATO	Short, crisp, detached notes	☐
LEGATO	Notes played smoothly	☐
Dynamics:-		☐
PIANISSIMO	Very quiet / soft	☐
PIANO	Quiet / soft	☐
MEZZO-PIANO	Half quiet	☐
MEZZO-FORTE	Half loud	☐
FORTE	Loud	☐
FORTISSIMO	Very loud	☐
		☐

SFORZANDO

Suddenly loud

CRESCENDO

Getting louder

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DIMINUENDO

Getting quieter

Individual instruments:-

ELECTRIC GUITAR

Guitar which requires an amplifier to produce sound

ACOUSTIC GUITAR

A guitar which does not require an amplifier to produce the sound

BASS GUITAR

Four stringed guitar.

DRUMKIT

Percussion instrument were tuned skins are hit with sticks

HARPSICHORD

Early keyboard instrument where strings were plucked. Popular in the Baroque era.

PIANO

Keyboard instrument where the sound is produced by hammers hitting sticks

ORGAN

A keyboard instrument usually found in churches - often more than 1 keyboard

RECORDER

Early woodwind instrument sound produced by blowing - four types, descant, treble, tenor and bass

PAN PIPES

Pipes which are graded in size and bound together with the sound produced by blowing across the top of the pipes

SITAR

A string instrument from India. In addition to melody strings it has a drone and strings which vibrate with each other

TABLA	Two Indian drums tuned to different pitches and often used to accompany a sitar	
CLARSACH	Small Scottish Harp	Page 24 ☐
BODHRAN	An Irish wooden drum used in folk music.	☐
Bands and ensembles:-		
BRASS BAND	A band containing brass instruments and percussion	☐
STEEL BAND	A West Indian band containing instruments made out of oil drums. Each drum is hammered into panels to make different pitches	☐
SCOTTISH DANCE BAND	A band containing fiddle, accordion, piano and drums	☐
WIND BAND	A band containing woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Usually intended for performance in a Concert Hall	☐
FOLK GROUP	A group of instrumentalists and singers performing songs from a particular country	☐
STRING QUARTET	A chamber music ensemble made up of 2 Violins, 1 Viola and 1 Cello	☐

STYLES

Words in this section describe the original style of the music.

Musical periods:-

BAROQUE

Music written between 1600-1750. Popular composers were Bach and Handel

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CLASSICAL

Music written between 1750-1810. Popular composers were Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven

☐

ROMANTIC

Music written between 1810-1900. Popular composers were Chopin, Schubert and Tchaikovsky

☐

Vocal styles:-

OPERA

A secular drama set to music featuring vocals with orchestral accompaniment

☐

ORATORIO

A musical setting of a biblical story featuring vocals and orchestra.
No acting or staging

☐

RECITATIVE

Vocal writing found in Opera, Oratorio and Cantata following the rhythm or speech. It is often half sung / half spoken in order to move on the story or plot

☐

ARIA

A song found in an Opera, Oratorio and Cantata usually with orchestral accompaniment

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CHORUS	A group of singers with several voices to each part. Used in Opera, Oratorio and Cantata	☐
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PLAINCHANT	Also known as Plainsong. Unaccompanied melody set to words of the Roman Catholic liturgy such as the Mass. Plainchants are Modal and have no regular metre. Sung in Latin.	☐
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MASS	From Renaissance period, a large scale sacred choral work featuring a Latin text and polyphonic texture. Usually performed a cappella. Listen for eg, Kyrie, Benedictus, Gloria, etc.	☐
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MUSICAL	Popular musical play featuring vocals and orchestra	☐
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Instrumental styles:-

SONATA	A work for solo piano or solo instrument and piano.	☐
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CONCERTO	A work for solo instrument and orchestra	☐
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SYMPHONY	A large work for orchestra in four movements	☐
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CHAMBER MUSIC	Music written for a small instrumental ensemble with one player to a part .	☐
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Scottish styles:-

BOTHY BALLAD	Folk song with many verses telling a story of rural or farming / working life	☐
GAELIC PSALMS	Unaccompanied songs sung in gaelic. One member of the congregation starts and the rest follow	☐
MOUTH MUSIC	Gaelic nonsense words sung in imitation of the sound of bagpipes as an accompaniment to dancing	☐
SCOTS BALLAD	A slow Scottish song telling a story	☐
WAULKING SONG	Gaelic work song sung by women. One woman leads and the others follow. The sound of the tweed being 'waulked' or hit against the work surface is heard in the background	☐
PIBROCH	Classical music for the solo bagpipe usually in variation form	☐

20th Century styles:-

BLUES	Music written in 4/4 time and mostly patterned in a 12-bar structure and on a scale where some notes are flattened - the blues scale	☐
RAGTIME	A style of dance music popular at the end of the 19 th Century. Often played on the piano and featuring a strongly syncopated melody in the right hand against a steady vamp in the left hand	☐
SWING	A jazz style started in the 1930's usually performed by Big Bands	☐

JAZZ	Music from the early 20th C featuring syncopation and improvisation.	☐
JAZZ FUNK	A combination of Jazz improvisation and the amplified instruments and character of rock.	☐
IMPRESSIONIST	A term borrowed from painting in which musical ideas merge to create a rather blurred and vague outline. Debussy was an important composer of this style	☐
MINIMALIST	A 20 th Century development where simple rhythmic and melodic figures are repeated with very slight changes each time	☐
MUSIQUE CONCRETE	Recorded natural sounds which are transformed using simple editing techniques such as playing backwards, slowing or speeding.	☐
INDIAN	Music from India using instruments such as the sitar and tabla	☐
POP	Popular music performed by a group of musicians. Usually music that has been in the charts	☐
ROCK	Popular music with a steady driving beat	☐
ROCK 'N' ROLL	1950's popular American music	☐
SOUL MUSIC	Afro-American popular music including elements of blues, gospel and conveying strong emotions.	☐

LATIN AMERICAN

Dance music from South America featuring percussion instruments and lively off-beat dance rhythms.

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REGGAE

Originates from Jamaica with strong off-beat rhythms and a dominant strong bass line. Can feature singers

☐**AFRICAN MUSIC**

Music from Africa featuring voices and/or African Drums.

☐**RAPPING**

Rhyming lyrics that are spoken and performed in time to a beat

☐**CELTIC ROCK**

A style of music that mixes Celtic folk music and rock together.

☐**GOSPEL**

Music written with religious lyrics, often in praise or thanksgiving to God usually performed by choirs or congregations.

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