

# Nat 5 Music Vocal Music

The main **voices** you will find in any vocal music are :

## **SOPRANO**

a high female voice

## **MEZZO SOPRANO**

a female voice whose range lies between that of Soprano and Alto

## **ALTO**

a low female voice

## **TENOR**

a high male voice

## **BARITONE**

a male voice whose range lies between that of Bass and Tenor – closer to bass

## **BASS**

a low male voice

Quizzes - identifying voices:

## OPERA

A drama set to music with soloists, chorus, acting, and orchestral accompaniment. It is normally performed in a theatre. It features CHORUSES, ARIAS, RECITATIVES, DUETS, QUARTETS etc and is accompanied by an ORCHESTRA

e.g. Queen of the Night – Magic Flute

## MUSICAL

A musical play which has speaking, singing and dancing. In a musical there is much more dialogue than in an opera. It features CHORUSES, ARIAS, RECITATIVES, DUETS, QUARTETS etc and is accompanied by an ORCHESTRA/COMBO BAND

## CHORUS

The term CHORUS can be used to describe a group of singers (e.g. choir) or the music performed by a group of singers. SATB is used to describe a chorus of mixed voices – Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass

*e.g. Anvil Chorus*

## ARIA

In operas or musicals ARIAS are solo songs which allows the soloist to show off his/her singing skill. An ARIA frequently uses MELISMAS, REPETITION, SEQUENCES and any other musical devices as appropriate to the setting of the text. It is accompanied by an orchestra.

e.g. *La dona e mobile* - (*Rigoletto* – Verdi)

Voice heard?

Beats in the bar?

e.g. *The Bird Catcher Song* - (*Magic Flute* - Mozart)

Voice heard?

Rhythmic concept?

e.g.. Mozart – *Parto ma tu ben mio* – *Opera La Clemenza di Tito*

Voice heard?

Solo instrument?

Chorus of  
 SATB  
 Male voices  
 Female voices

(tick one box)

Sing in

Unison  
 Harmony

(tick one box)

1

Listen to the **chorus** “The Triumphal Scene” from Verdi’s Opera “Aida” and fill in the required information in the musical map below. A voice will help guide you through the music.

Change of tonality to

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2

Chorus of  
 SATB  
 Male voices  
 Female voices  
(tick one box)

the texture is

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3

Chorus of  
 SATB  
 Male voices  
 Female voices  
(tick one box)

The cymbal plays

On the beat  
 Off the beat  
(tick one box)

4

Melody played by

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There are

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beats in the bar

5

## DESCANT

A vocal melody sung ABOVE the main vocal tune.

*Silent Night*

*Sing choirs of angels*

## COUNTER-MELODY

A melody played or sung against the main melody.

e.g. Scarborough Fair

e.g. Quintet (West Side Story)

## A CAPPELLA

Voices singing without any instrumental accompaniment

## IMITATION

Strict Imitation is when a phrase recurs exactly as before. In popular music a popular form of imitation consists of BACKING VOCALS repeating usually the last notes of the lead singer last line

e.g. O Happy Day

Minnie the Moocher

## ROUND/CANON

A very strict form of **IMITATION** is found in a **ROUND / CANON** e.g *Frere Jacques, London's Burning*) After one part starts to play or sing a melody, another part enters shortly afterwards with exactly the same melody.

Frère Jacques, Frère Jacques, dor-mez vous? dor-mez vous?

Sonnez les matines! Sonnez les matines! Din, dan, don. Din, dan, don.

Listen to *Frere Jacques* as you hear it used in the 3<sup>rd</sup> movt of Mahler's 1<sup>st</sup> Symphony. You will hear the music TWICE.

- Describe the tonality
- Name the instrument playing the solo
- Name the instrument that enters in canon.