

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?

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.

Chorus of

☐ SATB

☐ Male voices

☐ Female voices

(tick one box)

Sing in

☐ Unison

☐ Harmony

(tick one box)

1

Change of tonality to

2

Chorus of

☐ SATB

☐ Male voices

☐ Female voices

(tick one box)

the texture is

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

There are

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.



The image shows a musical score for the song 'Frere Jacques' in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). It consists of two staves. The first staff has the lyrics 'Frè - re Jac-ques, Frè - re Jac-ques, dor - mez vous? Dor - mez vous?'. The second staff starts with a measure rest marked '5' and then has the lyrics 'Son-nez les ma-ti - nes! Son-nez les ma-ti - nes! Din, dan, don. Din, dan, don.'. Asterisks (*) are placed above the first measure of each staff to indicate the start of the melody. The second staff begins its melody one measure after the first staff, illustrating the canon form.

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

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