

HIGHER MUSIC TECH

Timbre and Structure Higher concepts

| Texture/structure/form | Timbre/dynamics |
|------------------------|--|
| through-composed | accents harmonics phrase marks staccato marks |
| strophic | arco pizzicato |

PHRASE MARKS/ SLURS



A phrase is a section in music that express a complete idea.

A phrase mark, better known as a slur, indicates that a passage of music should be played legato (smoothly). Phrase marks usually cover several notes or bars and can also be used as an instructions – e.g. to tell a wind/ brass player or singer where to breathe.



Phrase marks play a significant part in musical shape. It is usually placed on the note head side in order to avoid crossing over note stems.



For bowed instruments, a slur indicates one continuous motion of the bow for the duration of the slur. The bow changes direction at the end of each slur and articulation

STACCATO

The notes are short and detached, with plenty of space between them – *opposite of legato*. It is notated by a dot above or below the note. This doesn't mean that the tempo or rhythm goes any faster. The tempo and rhythm are not affected by articulations; the staccato notes sound shorter than written only because of the extra space between them.



written

performed

Staccato and legato slurs can be combined to give variety of articulation in a phrase:

Have a look at this summary of staccato/ legato:

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



Guitar harmonics explained:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ru7HIGKMRNI&ab_channel=LouieZong



Violin harmonics explained:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=681aylovC0k&ab_channel=ClassicFM

ARCO

Instruction given to string players to use the bow. This term might be given to players after a passage using pizzicato.

PIZZICATO

Pizzicato (abbreviation 'pizz.') is an instruction given to string players to pluck the strings instead of using the bow (arco).



Have a look at this summary of arco and pizzicato:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AB7Ao4X2n1I&ab_channel=CHSMusicDept

STROPHIC

A song which has the same music repeated for verses/choruses, therefore the music will be heard repeating throughout the song, though the words may be different.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8OXLgpBrSU&ab_channel=CHSMusicDept

THROUGH COMPOSED

A vocal/choral composition in which there is little or no repetition in the musical structure i.e. where the composition is not structured as verse/chorus.



e.g. Schubert's lied. '*Erlkönig*' is through-composed. Listen to the way the singer changes his body language and tone of voice to portray the different characters (narrator, father, son and Erlkönig).

THROUGH COMPOSED



The structure of through-composed songs is not confined to the romantic period, listen to 'Bohemian Rhapsody' by Queen.



e.g. *Dreams* (Roy Orbison) – Here, the song never repeats a section. In two minutes and forty-eight seconds, it goes through seven movements with distinct melodies and chord progressions. The first two sections are sixteen bars each, but the other sections are only eight bars each.