

# STRUCTURE

## Bass lines

- ALBERTI BASS

**Broken chords played by the left hand** outlining harmonies whilst the right hand plays the melody. Typically, the notes are presented in the order *lowest, highest, middle, highest*. The broken chord pattern helps to create a smooth, sustained, flowing sound on the piano. It can also be heard as an accompaniment pattern on other instruments.

**Classical** composers such as Haydn and Mozart used this technique extensively.



It gets its name from the 18th Century Italian composer, Domenico Alberti, who used it in many of his compositions



# • PEDAL

**PEDAL**, is short for 'PEDAL POINT. It is a note which **is held on or is repeated continuously in the BASS** while the harmony changes above.

- In each of these examples, circle the bars with the pedal in it.

e.g. opening of Also Sprach Zarathustra

Sehr breit. ♩ = 69      feierlich.

tremolo      p      f      sub p <      f rit. marcato

pp      p      p      mp      mp

e.g. Raindrop Prelude - Chopin

24      Sostenuto

p

28      sotto voce

cresc.

e.g. Bach Prelude in C major

C7 (C-E-G-Bb)      F/C (F-A-C)      Dm7/C (D-F-A-C)

C pedal (in bass) starts as consonant note (in the chord)

G7 (G-B-D-F)      C (C-E-G)

ped. pt.      ped. pt.

pedal point (in bass) is now a non-chord tone

- **INVERTED PEDAL**

An **INVERTED PEDAL** is a pedal (ie a note that is held on or sounded continuously in the TOP PART instead of the bass

The image displays a musical score with multiple staves. A red rectangular box highlights a section in the upper part of the score, specifically the top staff, where a single note is sustained across several measures, serving as an inverted pedal. A blue rectangular box highlights a section in the lower part of the score, specifically the bottom staff, where a complex rhythmic pattern is played. Another red rectangular box highlights a section in the lower part of the score, specifically the second staff from the bottom, where a single note is sustained across several measures, also serving as an inverted pedal. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'f' (forte).



## • GROUND BASS

This is a theme in the bass which is repeated many times while the upper parts are varied.

e.g. Monteverdi *Zefiro torna*



*Listen to the music and fill in concepts for each category in the grid below:*

Melody/ Harmony	Rhythm/ Tempo	Texture/ Structure	Timbre (Instruments/ techniques)	Style	Dynamics

e.g. Little Brown Jug – NB this is an example of SWING music



*Listen to the music and fill in concepts for each category in the grid below*

Melody/ Harmony	Rhythm/ Tempo	Texture/ Structure	Timbre (Instruments/ techniques)	Style	Dynamics

## • WALKING BASS

A moving bass line with notes usually of the same value. It often moves by step, but not always so. Features heavily in jazz/swing.

e.g. In the Mood – this is an example of SWING music



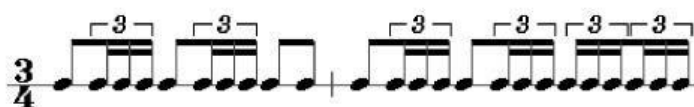
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## • OSTINATO (*Rhythmic & Melodic*)

An OSTINATO is a short musical pattern repeated many times.

It can be purely **rhythmic** e.g. Ravel's Bolero , Holst – Mars, Pirates of the Caribbean



or it can be **melodic**.

e.g. Carillon – Bizet – Here the 3 note ostinato represents the pealing of bells



e.g. Carol of the Bells



## • RIFF

A Riff is a repeated phrase usually found in jazz and popular music. It is similar to an ostinato.

e.g. Smoke on the Water – Deep Purple



e.g. Listen to Black Sabbath's "The Iron Man



e.g.. Listen to Day tripper – The Beatles



<p>Concepts checklist</p> <p>Write what each of these terms mean</p>	
Tempo	
Dynamics	
Articulation	
Staccato	
Legato	
Passing notes	
Alberti bass	
Pedal	
Inverted pedal	
Ground bass	
Walking bass	
Ostinato	
Riff	
Tonic pedal	
Alberti bass	
Passing notes	
Theme and Variations	

<p>CHORDS CHECK – write the notes in the following chords</p>	
C	
F	
G	
Am	
Em	
D	