

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.

Allegro

p

Allegro

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

Allegro

mf

Andante.

p dolce

legato

Adagio.

f

(1ma volta)

(2da volta) *f*

• 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. $\text{♩} = 69$

tremolo

feierlich.

f **sub p** **rit.** **marcato**

a tempo

p **mp**

e.g. Raindrop Prelude - Chopin

sostenuto

p

sotto voce

cresc.

e.g. Bach Prelude in C major

C7
(C-E-G-B \flat)

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 shows a page from Beethoven's 'Für Elise' piano sonata. The score is in common time and consists of ten staves. The top staff is the treble clef (G-clef) staff. The bottom staff is the bass clef (F-clef) staff, with the instruction 'Bassi' below it. The first section highlighted by a red box is in the treble clef staff, spanning from measure 10 to 15. The second section highlighted by a blue box is in the bass clef staff, spanning from measure 16 to 21. The third section highlighted by a red box is in the treble clef staff, spanning from measure 22 to 27. The score features various dynamics like 'f' (fortissimo), 'ff' (fortississimo), and 'p' (pianissimo), as well as slurs and grace notes.

• 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*

The image shows a musical score for 'Monteverdi Zefiro torna'. It features a bass clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (4/4). The score consists of two measures. The first measure contains six eighth notes, with the third note having a vertical line extending upwards. The second measure contains six eighth notes, with the fourth note having a vertical line extending upwards. Above the staff, the text '(BASSO OSTINATO)' is written in parentheses. To the right of the staff, there is a tempo marking 'Largo' followed by a dashed line and the text '(simile)'.

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

The image shows a musical score for 'Little Brown Jug'. It features a bass clef staff with a common time signature (4/4). The score consists of four measures. The first measure has a dotted half note followed by a quarter note. The second measure has a dotted half note followed by a quarter note. The third measure has a dotted half note followed by a quarter note. The fourth measure has a dotted half note followed by a quarter note. The notes are connected by vertical stems.

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



The image shows three staves of musical notation for a bass line. The first staff starts with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The second staff starts with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The third staff starts with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The bass line consists of eighth-note patterns that move step-wise, characteristic of a walking bass line. Measure numbers 5, 9, and 13 are indicated above the staves.

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 |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--|-------|----------|
| | | | | | |

• O~~S~~ΤΙΝΑΤΟ (*Rhythmic & Melodic*)

An O~~S~~ΤΙΝΑΤΟ 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



Concepts checklist

Write what each of these terms mean

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| 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 | |

CHORDS CHECK – write the notes
in the following chords

| | |
|----|--|
| C | |
| F | |
| G | |
| Am | |
| Em | |
| D | |