

Musical Terminology Dictionary

Audience- The people that watch/ listen to you perform.

Beat/pulse - The steady heartbeat of the music.

Body percussion- Sounds you can make with your body e.g by stamping feet, tapping knees, clicking fingers, rubbing hands together, whistling or clicking with tongue etc.

Call and response songs- My turn, your turn.

Composing- Writing down music so it can be played exactly the same another time.

Conductor- The person who stands at the front and is in charge, bringing everyone together.

Duration- How long something lasts for, long/ short notes or long/ short piece of music.

Dynamics- How loud/ quiet something is.

Environmental sounds- Sounds around you such as birds, cars, lawn mowers, photocopiers, lights buzzing etc.

Genre- Different styles of music.

Imitate- Copy.

Improvising- Making up music on the spot. (It may be slightly different each time.)

Lyrics- Words of a song.

Mood- Happy, sad, excited, scared etc.

Music map- Music written down that shows you what to play.
(So you play again exactly the same).

Notes- The name of the pitch of a sound.

Pitch- how high/ low a note is.

Pluck- To pull and quickly let go of a string with your finger.

Rhythm- The long and short patterns made by music. (Children learn to speak the rhythm of their name in Nursery.)

e.g Mrs Freebury

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Rhythmic Pattern- A pattern made by putting together different rhythms.

Round- The same piece played at different times which fits together.

Groups start and finish at different times E.g

Person 1- ABCDEFG****

Person 2- **ABCDEFGF**

Person 3- ****ABCDEFGF (Letters being music and * is resting.)

Strike- to hit

Tempo- The speed, fast/slow.

Tuned instruments- Instruments that have different notes so you can play a tune. E.g recorder, ukulele, chime bars.

Verse and Chorus- These are parts of a song. Verses usually have the same tune but different words each time. The chorus is repeated after each verse and has the same tune and words.