

# Knowledge Organiser: Music Theory

Orchestral instruments			
Name of group	Instruments in the group	How to play the instruments	How to identify
  	viola, violin, cello, double bass, guitar, ukulele	<p>Strings are plucked or can use a bow, violin/viola hold with the rest underneath your chin</p> <p>Cello on floor between legs</p> <p>Double bass - stand or sit next to it</p> <p>Guitar/ukulele held (sometimes with use of a strap) when standing, or the body of the instrument rests on your thigh when sitting</p>	Instruments must have strings (normally 4)
  	kettle drum, triangle, castanets, xylophone, cymbals, bass drums, bells, wooden blocks	Hit them with a hand or stick or hit them together - some have parts inside that hit together when shaken	Must be able to be hit or have parts that can be hit
  	piccolo, flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, recorder	Also known as wind family because air is blown to make a sound, some are made of wood but some are not, many have a reed to blow into on the edge	Make a sound by blowing (lips on the edge)
	trumpet, trombone, tuba, French horn	A sound is made by blowing, lips go inside the instrument	Made of brass
	Piano	It could be considered a percussion instrument because the keys are hit to be played or a string instrument because it has strings inside. However, it is actually in an orchestra group of its own.	

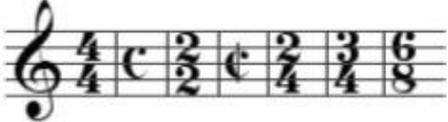
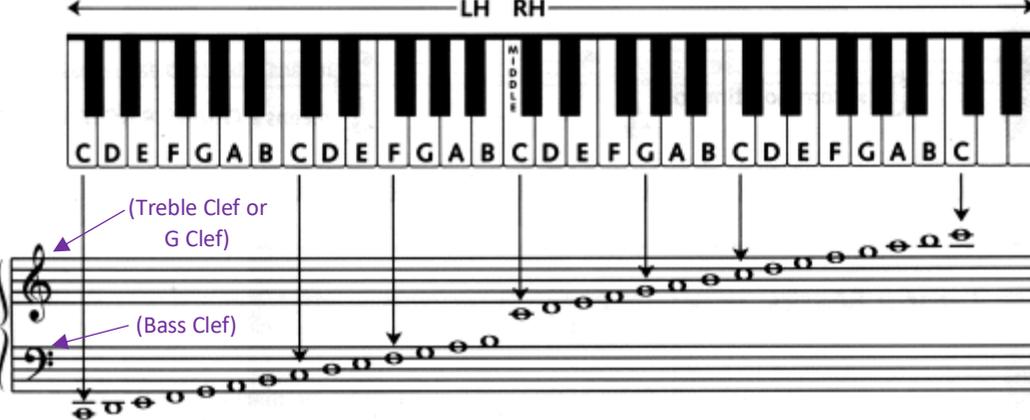
Musical terms			
Crescendo 	Gradually getting louder	Major key	A happy, uplifting tone
Diminuendo 	Gradually getting softer	Minor key	A sad, more serious tone
Pianissimo (pp)	Very soft	Pentatonic scale	A five-note scale often used in Chinese, African and Celtic Folk melodies
Piano (p)	Soft	Harmony	Two or more notes of pitch played at once to create a pleasing effect
Mezzo piano (mp)	Moderately soft	Canon	Where instruments play the same melody at the same tempo but at different points in the melody.
Mezzo forte (mf)	Moderately loud	Octave(s)	A note that sounds the same but at a higher/lower pitch
Forte (f)	Loud	Vibrato	A slight regular wavering in pitch to create a warm, interesting note

**Sharp #**  
A sharp raises a note by a semi tone

**Flat ♭**  
A flat lowers a note by a semitone



**Time signature**  
Shows how many beats, and what type of beat is in a bar

← LH RH →

(Treble Clef or G Clef)

(Bass Clef)

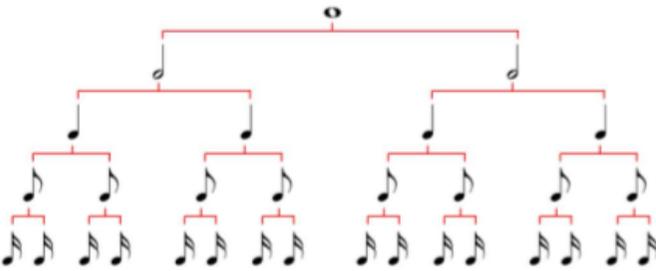
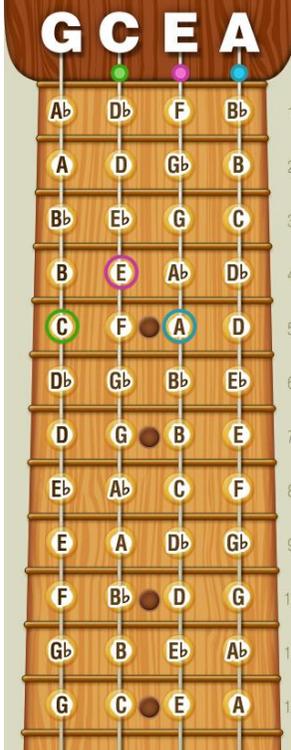
**Semibreves** 4 beats

**Minims** 2 beats

**Crotchets** 1 beat

**Quavers** ½ a beat

**Semiquavers** ¼ of a beat

**G C E A**

1 A♭ D♭ F B♭

2 A D G♭ B

3 B♭ E♭ G C

4 B E A♭ D♭

5 C F A D

6 D♭ G♭ B♭ E♭

7 D G B E

8 E♭ A♭ C F

9 E A D♭ G♭

10 F B♭ D G

11 G♭ B E♭ A♭

12 G C E A

# Knowledge Organiser: Music Theory

Acoustic: "comprises music that solely or primarily uses instruments which produce sound through entirely acoustic means, as opposed to electric or electronic means" e.g. **Jason Mraz.**

Alternative: "is also known as alternative rock. It is a genre of rock music and a term used to describe a diverse musical meaning that emerged from independent music underground of the 1980's and became widely popular by 1990s" e.g. **The Maccabees.**

Blues: "a musical genre combining blues improvisations over the 12-bar blues and extended boogie jams with rock and roll styles" e.g. **Bessie Smith.**

Classical: "is generally played on traditional acoustic instruments or orchestral music" e.g. **Katherine Jenkins.**

Soul: "a music genre combining elements of gospel music and rhythm and blues" e.g. **Stevie Wonder.**

Country: "is a blend of popular musical forms such as traditional folk music, Celtic music, blues, gospel music, hokum, and old-time music and evolved rapidly in the 1920s" They are also known as "hillbillies" e.g. **Taylor Swift.**

Rock and Roll: "a genre of music from a combination of African American blues, country, jazz, and gospel music" e.g. **Elvis Presley.**

Dance/Electro: "any rhythmic music intended for dancing" e.g. **David Guetta.**

Rock: "a genre of popular music that is heavily influenced by rhythm and blues and country music" e.g. **Kings of Leon.**

Dub step: "is a genre of electronic dance music that originated in South London, United Kingdom" e.g. **Chase And Status.**

Reggae: "is a music genre first developed in Jamaica in the late 1960s" e.g. **Bob Marley.**

Folk: "is an English term encompassing both traditional and contemporary folk music" e.g. **Mumford and Sons.**

R&B: "a genre of popular African American music that originated in the 1940's" e.g. **Drake.**

Pop: "a genre of popular music which originated in the 1950's, deriving from rock and roll" e.g. **One Direction.**

Jazz: "a musical style that originated in African American communications. It was born out of a mix of African and European music traditions" e.g. **Billie Holiday.**

Indie: "independent music, a term used to describe independence from major commercial records labels" e.g. **Wombats.**

Hip-Hop/Rap: "a musical genre consisting of a stylised rhythmic music that commonly accompanies rapping, a rhythmic and rhyming speech that is chanted" e.g. **Eminem.**

