

## Glossary

**Accent:** a stress or extra weight placed on a sound.

**Accompany:** to provide a background to a piece of music: to join in a piece of music with other instruments or voices or combinations of instruments and voices.

**Bass Drum:** a large percussion instrument generally struck with a mallet to produce a relatively deep and resonant sound.

**Bassoon:** a double-reed instrument of the woodwind family and the largest of the woodwind instruments normally found in an orchestra.

**Beat:** the regular pulse of music; pulse and beat are identical terms; the rate at which beat goes is called tempo or speed.

**Beat competency:** the ability to maintain a beat through clapping, walking, stamping or other kinds of physical activities.

**Bows:** wooden sticks with horse-hair attached to both ends of the stick, used by violinists, violists, 'cellists and double bass players.

**Building layers of sounds:** adding more and more sounds to verses as they repeat so that the sound becomes denser.

**Canon:** strict repetition of voices one after the other rather like a round.

**'Cello:** short for violoncello, a member of the string family.

**Chord:** when notes are piled up on top of each other a chord is created.

**Chorus:** the repeated part of a song or rhyme. Also a group of people who sing together.

**Clarinet:** a member of the woodwind family, generally black in colour and played with a single reed. Saxophones are also single-reed instruments.

**Crescendo:** gradually getting louder.

**Cymbal:** a percussion instrument made of metal which can be clashed with another cymbal, or suspended from a pole and struck with a variety of mallets.

**Descending pattern:** a pattern of pitch which falls from a relatively high note to a relatively low note.

**Diminuendo:** gradually getting softer.

**Drones:** long, held notes such as one hears when bagpipes play, for example.

**Drum:** a general term for all drums in the percussion family, that is, instruments made from a frame which supports a skin or plastic membrane which is struck by mallets, brushes or other kinds of beaters.

**Duet:** a piece of music for two voices or two instruments or combination of voice or instrument.

**Flute:** a member of the woodwind family which, together with the piccolo, tends to play the highest parts in orchestral music. Flutes these days tend to be made of metals such as silver or gold, but the first flutes were made of wood. Some players still prefer to play wooden flutes.

**Glockenspiel:** a metal-barred percussion instruments, which produces a bright, ringing bell-like sound.

**Hoe-down:** a type of square dance found in North America, often performed with lots of shouting and yelling.

**Imitate:** to copy, to mimic, to repeat exactly.

**Interlude:** music inserted between verses of a song or rhyme or between verses and choruses.

**Introduction:** a musical idea announcing the beginning of a piece.

**Jig:** a very lively dance with an equally lively tempo or speed.

**Legato:** notes joined together; smooth sounds; music which is played or sung in a smooth and even way.

**March:** a relatively fast-paced walking step used in the military and other forces, generally in formation. Marches can be in a variety of metres such as  $\frac{2}{4}$ ,  $\frac{4}{4}$ ,  $\frac{6}{8}$  and so on.

**Melody:** another word for tune or song.

**Metallic:** barred instruments made of metal, generally percussion instruments, such as chimes, bells and glockenspiels.

**Metre:** the pair of numbers which appear at the beginning of a piece which identify how the bars will be grouped; for example if we see the metre sign  $\frac{4}{4}$  we know there will be four beats in a bar.

**Mime/Miming:** imitating, copying, repeating exactly, often with physical actions, for example, miming the way in which an elephant walks.

**Oboe:** a member of the woodwind family, played with a double reed, often black in colour. Its other double reed companion is the bassoon.

**Octave:** a span of eight notes, for example from middle C on the piano to the C eight notes above is an octave.

**Ostinato:** literally obstinate or stubborn – a repeated pattern in rhythm or pitch or harmony which happens over and over again, thus the use of the words obstinate or stubborn.

**Percussion:** musical instruments which tend to be struck with mallets, beaters, brushes, sticks, hands and feet or other objects to produce sound. They can be made of wood, skin, metal, or combinations of these materials and may be able to produce a wide range of pitched sounds, that is identifiable notes such as C, D or F-sharp or an equally wide range of unpitched sounds.

**Perpetual motion:** ongoing rhythmic movement tending to remain consistent throughout the piece.

**Pitch patterns:** identifiable groups of notes which form recognisable blocks of sound.

**Pizzicato:** plucking a string instrument such as a violin, viola, 'cello or double bass.

**Rhyming/rhyme:** words which produce matching sounds such as cake/bake/lake/make/take or sing/ring/thing/ding.

**Rhythm:** the division of pulse into smaller units of sound. For example in a bar of two beats each beat could be divided into twos, threes, fours, fives and so on.

**Shakers:** percussion instruments which often have seeds or other objects encased in a bulb such as a maraca, and often used in Latin-American music.

**Side drum:** a small drum in the percussion family often with a band of metal strings attached to the underside of the drum called a snare which produces a constant sound.

**Snare drum:** see side drum.

**Staccato:** detached, short, not joined often the opposite of legato.

**String quartet:** the usual combination of a string quartet is two violins, viola and a 'cello.

**Square dance:** a formation dance performed in groups, usually with someone known as the caller giving the dancers their instructions.

**Tambourine:** a wooden frame supporting a skin or plastic head, with pairs of metal jingles inserted into the edge of the frame.

**Tea for Two:** an old hit song from a musical written in 1925.

**Temple blocks:** five wooden skull-like objects with hollow centres, supported on a frame, which when struck produce five different pitches.

**Tempo:** the rate at which a beat travels; the speed of a beat; we can talk about fast tempi (plural of tempo) or slow tempi, and so on.

**Tenor drum:** a much larger and deeper version of a side drum with a strong, clear, resonant sound when struck.

**Triangle:** an instrument built in the geometric shape of a triangle which, when struck with a metal beater, produces a clear, ringing, bright and penetrating sound. The sound of a triangle can be heard over the entire orchestra.

**Unison:** singing the same pitch at the same time as someone else can be defined as unison. When we sing songs together, without other parts, they will tend to be in unison.

**Verse:** a collection of lines which when put together form a section of a poem. For our purposes, the song *This Old Man* has five verses. Verse can also refer to poetry generally for example, English Verse from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Viola:** a member of the string family, lower in range than the violin and slightly larger than the violin.

**Violin:** probably the highest member of the string family although violins do come in many sizes from very small to full-sized concert instruments.

**Waltz:** a dance in triple metre,  $\frac{3}{4}$  ; a dance performed by couples which was very popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Wood blocks:** rectangular wooden objects with a slit carved out from the centre of the block to produce a hollow, bright sound when struck by a beater.

**Wind quartet:** four instruments of the woodwind family including the flute; the oboe, a double reed instrument; the clarinet, a single-reed instrument; and the bassoon, another double reed instrument.