

MUSIC B22 • STUDY TERMS FOR CHAPTERS 1-5

Rhythm - durations of sounds in music

Beat - the basic pulse underlying music

Accent - stressing a beat or a rhythm

Meter - recurring pattern of strong and weak beats

Measure or bar - one unit of meter

Duple meter - groups of two or four beats (*strong-weak* or *strong-weak-weak-weak*)

Triple meter - groups of three beats (*strong-weak-weak*)

Simple meter - beats are divided in twos

Compound meter - beats are divided in threes

Syncopation - accent displaced between the beats

Tempo - rate of speed of the beat

Adagio *slowest*

Andante

Moderato

Allegretto

Allegro

Presto *fastest*



Pitch - frequency of sound

Dynamics - volume level of sound

fortissimo (ff) - very loud

forte (f) - loud

mezzo forte (mf) - medium loud

mezzo piano (mp) - medium soft

piano (p) - soft

pianissimo (pp) - very soft

Timbre - vocal or instrumental tone color

Scale - stepwise arrangement of pitches in a given key (*do-re-mi-fa-sol-la-ti-do*)

Interval - distance between two pitches

Octave - interval of eight steps; frequencies are related in a 2:1 ratio

Melody - pitch and rhythm organized to create a tune

Motive - smallest distinct fragment of melody

Phrase - one section or "sentence" of a melody

Theme - melody as a "topic" for a piece of music

Harmony - different pitches sounded together in a chord

Consonance - concordant, stable harmony

Dissonance - discordant, unstable harmony

Texture - the interaction of various layers within music

Monophony - single unaccompanied melody

Homophony - melody with accompaniment

Polyphony - two or more simultaneous melodies

Counterpoint - the technique of writing polyphonic music

Tonality - music organized around a "home" tonic pitch

Major mode - "happy" sounding key organized around tonic *do*

Minor mode - "sad" sounding key organized around tonic *la*

Form - the organization of musical structure

Genre - a general category or kind of music

Style - distinctive qualities of an individual work of art