

**\* Major sources for this glossary include *The New Harvard Dictionary of Music and National Standards for Arts Education***

<i>A cappella</i>	choral music without instrumental *accompaniment
<i>Accelerando</i>	to gradually get faster
Accent	to place emphasis on a specific note
Accidental	in musical notation, any of the symbols used to raise or lower a pitch by one or two semitones or to cancel a previous sign or part of a *key signature [#-sharp, X-double sharp, b-flat, bb-double flat, natural sign]
Accompaniment	the musical background for a principal part or parts
Acoustic	not electric, especially with reference to the guitar or double bass
<i>Ad libitum (Ad lib)</i>	at the pleasure of the performer
Adjudication form	a list of criteria, which is used to evaluate a performance.
<i>Aerophone</i>	an instrument in which a column of air is the primary vibrating system
<i>Alla breve</i>	the *meter signature ( ) indicating the equivalent of 2/2 time
Analysis	the study of musical structure applied to actual works or performances
Answer	in a fugue, a statement of the subject immediately following its statement in the prevailing key
Arrange	the adaptation of a musical work
Articulation	in performance, the characteristics of attack and decay of tones and the manner and extent to which tones in sequence are connected or disconnected
Band	a large instrumental group consisting primarily of wind (brass and woodwind) and percussion instruments
Binary	AB form
Call and response	a song style that follows a simple question-and-answer pattern in which a soloist "calls" out the melody and a group responds
Canon	a composition for two or more voices in which one voice enters after another in exact imitation of the first. A round is the simplest type of canon
Ceremonial	an established custom or formal actions connected with an occasion
Choir	a group of singers organized and trained to sing together
Chord	three or more pitches sounded simultaneously or functioning as if sounded simultaneously
Chord progression	a succession of two or more chords
Chordal style	a style or texture consisting of *chords whose pitches are sounded simultaneously
Chordophone	any instrument in which sound is produce by the vibration of a string

Chromatic/Chromaticism	movement by half steps
Classical Music	in its broadest sense, refers to a style of "art" music as distinguished from folk, jazz, or popular music (See Historical Periods for further definition)
Classical Period	refers to European music from @ 1750-1820
Classroom instruments	instruments typically used in the general music classroom, including, for example, recorder-type instruments, chorded zithers, mallet instruments, simple percussion instruments, fretted instruments, keyboard instruments, and electronic instruments
Clef	a sign placed at the beginning of a staff to indicate the position of some particular pitch, and by extension, the pitches represented by all of the staff's lines and spaces
Coda	any concluding passage that can be understood as occurring after the structural conclusion of a work and that serves as a formal closing gesture
Compose	The activity of creating a musical work
Composer	a person who writes musical works
Concert	a public performance of music before an audience that has assembled for the purpose of listening to it
Conductor	a person who leads a musical group
<i>Crescendo</i>	get gradually louder
Curwen hand signs	a system of hand signs developed to facilitate singing by *solfege symbols
<i>D.C. - Da Capo</i>	means to go back to the beginning
<i>D.S. - Dal Segno</i>	means to repeat from the sign
Dalcroze method	a system of musical education developed by Emile Jacques-Dalcroze (1865-1950), based on the idea of experiencing music and developing music abilities through rhythmic movement
<i>Decrescendo/diminuendo</i>	get gradually softer
Diction	denotes clear and correct enunciation in singing
Double flat	indicates to lower a pitch two half steps
Double sharp	indicates to raise a pitch two half steps
Duet	two people play or sing
Dynamics	the volume of sound, the loudness or softness of a musical passage
Elements of music	*pitch, *rhythm, *harmony, *dynamics, *timbre, *texture, *form in music
Embellishment	the modification of music, usually but not always through the addition of notes
Ensemble	(1) a group of performers who perform together, whether instrumentalists, singers, or some combination. (2) the degree to which a group of performers performs with appropriate balance and well-coordinated articulation

Expression	with appropriate dynamics, phrasing, style and interpretation and appropriate variations in dynamics and tempo
<i>Fine</i>	the end
<i>Fermata</i>	a hold; hold the note as long as the conductor indicates
Folk song	uncomplicated music that speaks directly of everyday matters, the first popular music
Form	the overall structural organization of a music composition (e.g. AB, ABA, call and response, verse and refrain, rondo, theme and variations, sonata-allegro) and the interrelationships of music events within the overall structure
Fretted instruments	instruments with frets (strips of material across the fingerboard allowing the strings to be stopped at predetermined locations), such as guitar, banjo, mandolin, or ukulele)
<i>Genre</i>	a type of category of music (e.g., sonata, opera, oratorio, art song, gospel, suite, jazz, madrigal, march, work song, lullaby, barbershop, Dixieland)
Harmony	the sounding together of two or more tones
Idiophone	any musical instrument that produces sound by the vibration of its own primary material, i.e., without the vibrations of a string, membrane, or column of air
Improvise	to compose music while performing it; commonly associated with jazz
Instrumentation	the general knowledge of orchestral instruments
Introduction	a passage, usually in a slow tempo, at the beginning of a movement or work and preparatory to the main body of the form
Interlude	music played between sections of a composition or of a dramatic work
Interval	the relationships (distance) between two pitches
Intonation	the degree to which pitch is accurately produced in performance, particularly among the players in an ensemble
Jazz	an eclectic, expanding collection of 20th-century styles, principally instrumental and of black American creation. Music that embraces ragtime, Dixieland, blues (vocal and instrument), swing, jive, bebop, cool, third stream, free/modal, fusion, and jacuzzi styles
Key	in tonal music, the pitch relationships that establish a single pitch as a tonal center or tonic with respect to which the remaining pitches have subordinate functions
Key signature	in tonal music, an arrangement of sharps or flats (or the absence of both) at the beginning of each staff that defines the principal pitches employed in the composition in question
Keyboard instruments	instruments sounded by means of a keyboard, especially the piano and organ

Kodaly system	a system of music education for children developed by the Hungarian composer Zoltan Kodaly (1882-1967). The method aims to achieve universal musical literacy by teaching children to sing from notes using a "moveable do" *solfege system and a progressive repertory of songs and exercises based on Hungarian folk material
<i>Legato</i>	a smooth articulation of a series of tones, each connected to the next
Level of Difficulty	for purposes of these standards, music is classified into six levels of difficulty. (Adapted with permission from NYSSMA Manual, Edition XXIII, published by the New York State School Music Association, 1991.)
Level of Difficulty-1	Level 1-Very easy. Easy keys, meters, and rhythms; limited ranges
Level of Difficulty-2	Level 2-Easy. May include changes of tempo, key, and meter; modest ranges
Level of Difficulty-3	Level 3-Moderately easy. Contain moderate technical demands, expanded ranges, and varied interpretive requirements
Level of Difficulty-4	Level 4-Moderately difficult. Requires well-developed *technical skills, attention to phrasing and interpretation, and ability to perform various meters and rhythms in a variety of keys
Level of Difficulty-5	Level 5-Difficult. Requires advanced technical and interpretive skills; contains key signatures with numerous sharps or flats, unusual meters, complex rhythms, subtle dynamic requirements
Level of Difficulty-6	Level 6-Very difficult. Suitable for musically mature students of exceptional competence.
Long ago	music from the past
Lullaby	a sleep song
Lyrics	the words that are sung in a song
Madrigal	the name for Italian vocal music of the 14th and 16th centuries
March	music with a steady beat suitable for a parade or procession
Melody	in the most general sense, a coherent succession of pitches. Refers to successive rather than simultaneous sounds
Membranophone	an instrument in which sound is produced by the vibration of a membrane, traditionally a stretched animal skin, though now often a synthetic material
Meter	the grouping in which a succession of rhythmic pulses or beats is organized, indicated by a *meter signature at the beginning of a work

Meter Signature	an indicator of the *meter of a musical work, usually presented in the form of a fraction, the denominator of which indicates the unit of measurement and the numerator of which indicates the number of units that make up a measure
Metronome	a device used to indicate the tempo of a composition by sounding regular beats at adjustable speed
MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface)	standard specifications that enable electronic instruments such as the synthesizer, sampler, sequencer, and drum machine from any manufacturer to communicate with one another and with computers
Modality	a musical system based on the use of a *mode or modes, as distinct especially from *tonality; also that quality of a work that is attributable to its use of a specific mode
Mode	any of a series of loosely related concepts employed in the study and classification of both *scales and *melodies. Most of the modes differ from the major and minor scales in the location of the half steps
Modulation	in tonal music, the process of changing from one *key to another, or the result of such change
Notation	any means of writing down music
Orchestra	a music grouping of string, brass, woodwind and percussion instruments
Orff-Schulwerk	a system of music education developed by the German composer Carl Orff (1895-1982). It is intended for groups of children singing and playing together, and it emphasizes the development of creativity and the ability to *improvise. Orff designed a special set of percussion instruments for which he composed five volumes of Music for Children embodying his ideas
<i>Ostinati</i>	a short musical pattern that is repeated persistently throughout a composition
Patriotic Songs	songs pertaining to love and serve to one's country
Pentatonic	a *scale consisting of five pitches or pitch classes; music based on such a *scale
Phrase	by analogy with language, a unit of musical syntax
Phrasing	the realization, in performance, of the *phrase structure of a work; the phrase structure itself
Pitch	the highness or lowness of sound
Popular Music	American music that has wide appeal, is immediately communicative and relatively short
Question/answer	a teacher "question/answer" method implies that the student answers a musical "question" by responding with a like-style musical "answer"
Recapitulation	the return of the main themes

Rhythm	an element of music: The organization of sound (note lengths) and silence in time
<i>Ritardando</i>	gradually slow down
Round	see Canon: A composition for two or more voices in which one voice enters after another in exact imitation of the first. A round is the simplest type of canon
Rubric	a common method for designing tasks and assessments; a set of criteria that a student must meet to demonstrate achievement of the task
Sacred	religious music
Scale	a collection of pitches arranged in order from lowest to highest or from highest to lowest
Score	the notation of a work, especially one for *ensemble, presented in such a way that simultaneous moments in all voices or parts are aligned vertically. In a full score, each voice or part is notated on its own *staff
Secular	non-religious music
Sequence	repetition of a melodic idea or phrase at a higher or lower pitch
Sequencer	a device that can record, edit, store, and play back digital data that represents a musical performance
Singing Games	usually action songs that are related to a game or movement such as hand movements, skipping, dancing, or fingerplays
Slur	a curved line drawn over two or more notes indicating they are to be connected
<i>Solfège syllables</i>	the designation of pitches by means of conventional syllables rather than letter names
Solo	one person plays or sings
<i>Sonata</i>	a multi-movement composition for solo instrument with or without piano accompaniment
Spiritual	a sacred song that evolved from the period of slavery in the United States
<i>Staccato</i>	played/sung in a detached (separate) manner, as opposed to legato. Indicated by a dot over or under the note head
Staff	a group of equidistant horizontal lined, now always five, on which notes are placed in such a way as to indicate pitch
Staves	the plural of *staff
Style	the distinctive or characteristic manner in which the *elements of music are treated. In practice, the term may be applied to, for example, composers (the style of Copland), periods (Baroque style), media (keyboard style), nations (French style), *form or type of composition (fugal style, contrapuntal style), or *genre (operatic style, bluegrass style).

Style	quality that is characteristic of a culture, individual or historical period
<i>Syncopation</i>	placing an accent to the weak part of the beat, or a displacement of either the beat or the normal accent of a piece of music
Synthesizer	an electronic instrument used to generate sounds
Technical accuracy/skills	the ability to perform with appropriate tone color (timbre), intonation, and diction and to play or sing the correct pitches and rhythms
<i>Tempo</i>	the speed of the beat
<i>Tempo Markings</i>	<b>Adagio</b> - a slow temp, often said to be slower than <b>andante</b> but not as slow as <b>largo</b> ; <b>Allegro</b> - fast, lively; <b>Largo</b> - very slow; <b>Andante</b> - walking tempo; <b>Moderato</b> - moderately fast
<i>Tenuto</i>	indicated by a dash above or below a note and indicates to hold the note for its full value
<i>Ternary</i>	ABA form
Texture	the character of the different layers of sound in music
Theme	A musical idea, usually a melody, that forms the basis or starting point for a composition to a major section of one
Theme and variation	embodies a principle of strophic repetition; a theme with a particular structure is followed by a series of discrete pieces with the same or very similar structure. In each variation, some elements of the theme remain constant while others change
Tie	a curved line connecting two successive notes of the same pitch, indicating that the second note is not to be attacked, but that its duration is to be added to that of the first
<i>Timbre (Tone Color)</i>	the character or quality of a sound that distinguishes one instrument, voice, or other sound source from another
<i>Tonality</i>	the harmonic relationship of tones with respect to a definite center or point of rest; fundamental to much of Western music from ca. 1600
Transposition	the rewriting or performance of music at a pitch other than the original one
Trio	three people play or sing
<i>tutti</i>	All sing or play
Variation	a technique of modifying a given musical idea; a form based on a series of such modifications
Vocal parts	S-soprano, A-alto, T-tenor, B-bass
Waltz	a dance in triple meter (3/4)
Work song	songs in which the text describes the task of the worker

