

definitions and musical terminology

Definitions and Musical Terminology

B.P.M.	beats per minute, the pace of music measured by the number of beats occurring in 60 seconds.
Beat:	to mark (time) by strokes, as with the hand or a metronome.
Brass:	a musical wind instrument of brass or other metal with a cup-shaped mouthpiece, as the trombone, tuba, French horn, trumpet, or cornet.
Call and Response:	noting or pertaining to a style of singing in which a melody sung by one singer is responded to or echoed by one or more singers.
Dynamics:	variation and gradation in the volume of musical sound.
Harmony:	the simultaneous combination of tones, esp. when blended into chords pleasing to the ear.
Key:	the relationship perceived between all tones in a given unit of music and a single tone or a keynote; tonality.
Melody:	a rhythmical succession of single tones producing a distinct musical phrase or idea.
Metronome:	a mechanical or electrical instrument that makes repeated clicking sounds at an adjustable pace, used for marking rhythm, esp. in practicing music.
Ostinato:	a constantly recurring melodic fragment.
Percussion:	the section of an orchestra or band comprising the percussion instruments and the percussion instruments themselves.
Pitch:	to set at a particular pitch, or determine the key or keynote of (a melody).
Rhythm:	the pattern of regular or irregular pulses caused in music by the occurrence of strong and weak melodic and harmonic beats.

Sound:	the sensation produced by stimulation of the organs of hearing by vibrations transmitted through the air or other medium.
Sound effects:	artificially created or enhanced sounds, or sound processes used to emphasize artistic or other content of movies, video games, music, or other media.
Strings:	stringed instruments, esp. those played with a bow.
Tempo:	relative rapidity or rate of movement, usually indicated by such terms as adagio, allegro, etc., or by reference to the metronome.
Timbre:	the characteristic quality of sound produced by a particular instrument or voice; tone color.
Tone:	any sound considered with reference to its quality, pitch, strength, source, etc.: shrill tones. Quality or character of sound.
Woodwinds:	a musical wind instrument of the group comprising the flutes, clarinets, oboes, bassoons, and occasionally, the saxophones.