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Vocal/Instrumental/ Guitar

Elements of Music

All of the following terms work together to create music. As your knowledge of music progresses, you will be able to discuss each music element more intelligently.

Melody: Melody may be described in the following ways:

- Conjunct or disjunct
- Small range or large range
- Easy to detect or hard to detect
- stepwise or leaps
- slow or fast
- instrumental or sung

Rhythm: Some terms to describe rhythm

- Fast or slow
- Strong or weak pulse
- 2,3,4 or? Beats per bar
- long or short notes
- regular or irregular
- obvious or hard to detect

Harmony: this element is more difficult:

- Dissonant or consonant (not pleasing vs. Pleasing)
- Dense or transparent
- Major or minor
- slow or fast
- simple or complex

Dynamics: words that refer to volume:

- Loud or soft (or in between)
- Constant or changing
- Changes a lot or a little

Texture: refers to the way in which all the parts fit together

- Dense or transparent
- Simple or complex
- Constant or changing
- rough or smooth
- thick or thin

Timbre: words that describe types of sound

- Brassy, reedy, percussive, stringy
- Acoustic or electronic
- Names of instruments
- dark or bright
- synthesized or real

Form:

- through/composed
- AB (binary)
- Other _____
- ABA (ternary or rounded binary)
- ABA (ternary or rounded binary)