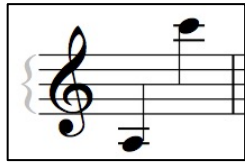


Melody – Knowledge Organiser

Pitch



How high or low a note is

Interval



The distance between any two notes.

Motif



A fragment of a melody.

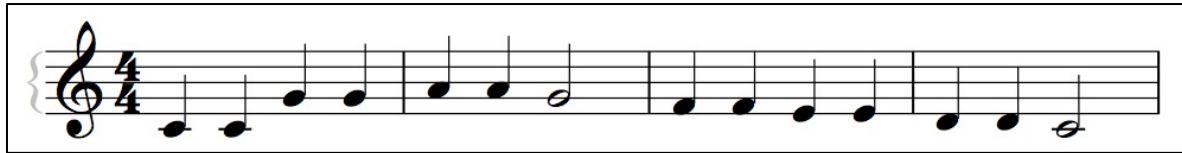
Range



The difference between the lowest and highest notes

Phrase

A longer melodic idea. Musical “sentences” are constructed from phrases.



Hook/riff

A memorable repeated melodic idea designed to catch the ear of the listener.



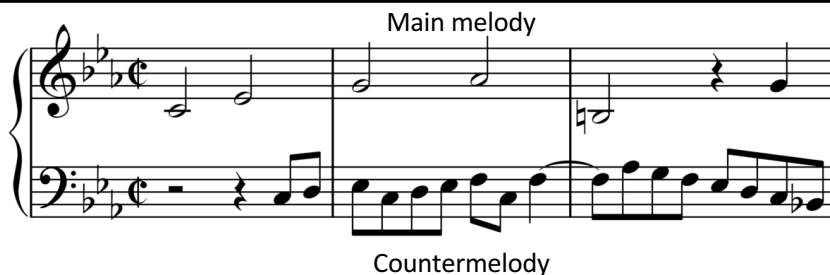
Melodic movement

- Steps** – movement between notes that are next to each other in the scale
- Skips** – movement equal to two steps. You “skip” over a note in the scale
- Leaps** – any movement that is larger than a skip
- Scalic** – when a section of a melody moves along using notes in scale order
- Chromatic** – movement using steps including notes that are not in the key
- Passing note** – notes which link chord tones

Scale/mode

A group of notes which a melody is based on
e.g. major, minor, blues, chromatic, dorian

Counter melody



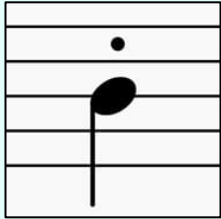
Compositional devices

- Repetition** – repeat a melodic idea
- Sequence** – repeat a melodic idea but starting on a different note
- Imitation** – repeat a melodic idea in another instrument
- Variation** – change the melodic idea slightly
- Ostinato** – constant repetition of a melodic idea
- Inversion** – turn the melodic idea upside down
- Retrograde** – play the melodic idea backwards

Articulation – Knowledge Organiser

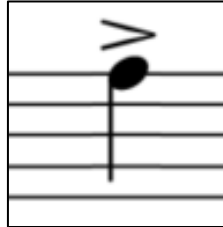
ARTICULATION means *how* you play or sing a note. It is an important part of performing music **EXPRESSIVELY**.

Staccato



Performed short and briefly. Notes sound detached from each other.

Accent



Emphasise a note so that it sounds louder than others.

Legato



Perform the notes smoothly. Notes sound connected to each other.
A smooth articulation between two notes is called a **SLUR**.

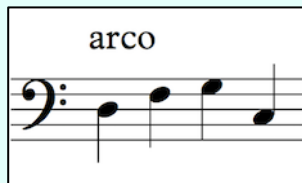
Orchestral Strings

Pizzicato



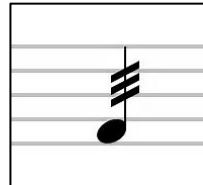
Perform the notes by plucking them with the fingers.

Arco



Perform the notes by using the bow.

Tremolo



Continuously play the note with the bow rapidly to produce a trembling effect.

Other Articulations

Vibrato – a slight “wobbling” of the pitch of a note for expression. An important vocal technique as well as for instruments.

Tonguing – the technique used by brass and wind players. Faster rhythms often require the technique of double or triple tonguing.

Bend – guitarists can use their fingers to bend the string from one note to another. Brass and wind players can also do this with different mouth shape and air pressure.

Sforzando



A sforzando is a type of accent. The note should be played with a sudden, strong emphasis.

Slides

Glissando – a dramatic slide between a wide range of notes. For example, running the fingers along the strings of a harp.

Portamento – a smooth slide between two notes. Used frequently by singers.