

THE ELEMENTS OF MUSIC

Pt

PITCH

Moving from one distance of sound to another. High to low.

DURATION

The amount of time a sound occurs.

- ▷ Long (whole notes, half notes) or
- ▷ Short (quarter notes, eighth notes, sixteenth notes).

Du

Dy

DYNAMICS

The sound level at which music is played.

- ▷ Loud (forte, fortissimo) or
- ▷ Soft (piano, pianissimo).
- ▷ Medium is often called mezzo-piano (pronounced "met-so pi-ahno") or mezzoforte (pronounced "met-so four-tay").

TONE COLOR

The quality of sound, what the voice or instrument sounds like. This is also referred to as "Timbre" (pronounced tam-ber).
Examples include: light, airy, dark, mystical, rich, full, dancing, excited.

Tc

Fo

FORM

The organization of music. Examples include:

- ▷ ABA (first section, second section, first section repeats)
- ▷ AB (first section, followed by second section)
- ▷ Rondo (ABACA - The A section always comes after each new section).

TEXTURE

The layers of sound within a piece of music. Examples :

- ▷ Just melody (monophony) or
- ▷ Melody and harmony (polyphony).
- ▷ Chords (3 or more notes played at the same time).

Instruments can add to the texture of music: blaring, rough, smooth, choppy, disjointed, tight, rich.

Tx