

Key Vocabulary

Pulse

The heartbeat of the music. Sometimes called the 'beat'.



We can clap along in time, we can move our bodies in time, we can march in time to the beat of the music.

Rhythm

A pattern of long and short sounds.



Timbre

The quality of sound e.g. smooth, scratchy, twinkly.

Musical Style: Classical

We are listening to a classical 'symphonic fairytale' called 'Peter and the Wolf' composed by Prokofiev in 1936.

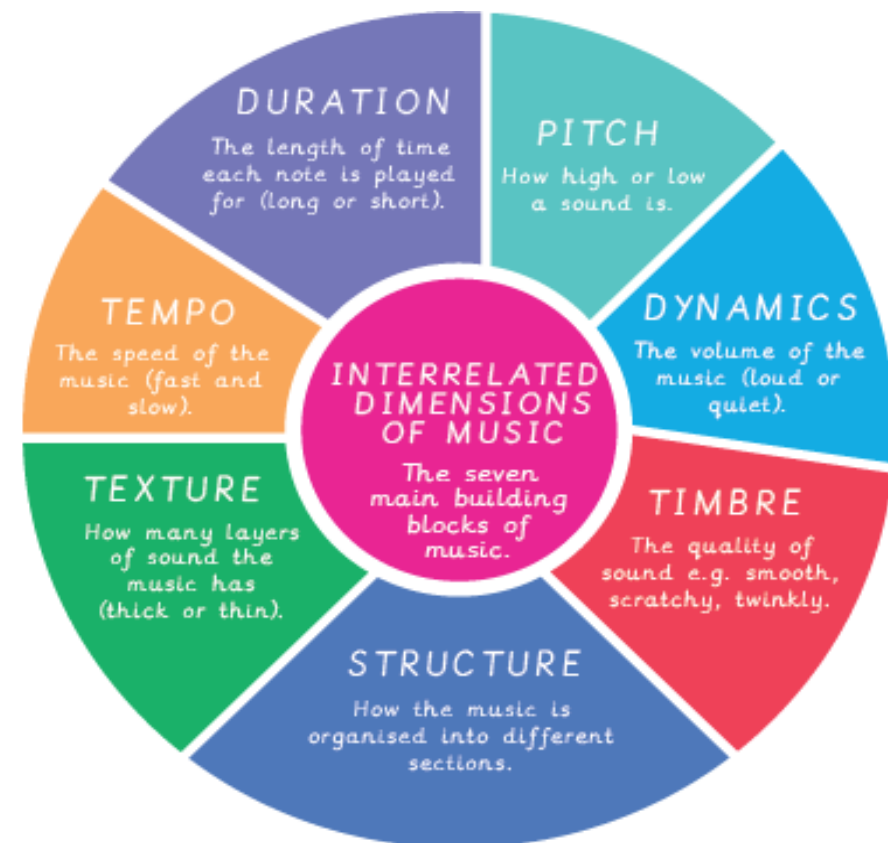


A symphony is a piece of music which has been composed to be played by a full orchestra. Symphonies are usually quite long pieces which are divided into parts.

Musical Elements

Peter and the Wolf - Profokiev

The Orchestra



Different instruments have different 'timbres'. In 'Peter and the Wolf', the animals are represented by instruments with different timbres.

<p>Peter - Violin</p>	<p>Cat - Clarinet</p>
<p>Hunter - Timpani</p>	<p>Duck - Oboe</p>
<p>Wolf - French horn</p>	<p>Bird - Flute</p>
<p>Grandfather - Bassoon</p>	

Instruments of the Orchestra

The Brass Family

The traditional line-up of the brasses is: horns, trumpets, trombones and tubas. The numbers and combinations of these instruments vary according to historical period, geographical location and composer.

Position in an orchestra

The Woodwind Family

The wind section is traditionally known as the woodwind section even though not all the instruments are made of wood. (For example, the saxophone is made of metal.) The woodwind section usually includes flutes, oboes, clarinets and bassoons.

Position in an orchestra

Instrument Families

The String Family

The string section is the basis of the orchestra and makes them a powerful tool. The Principal of the First Violin section is also the leader of the orchestra.

Position in an orchestra

The Percussion Family

The variety of percussion instruments is enormous, however, they fall into two main groups: tuned percussion and untuned percussion.

Position in an orchestra