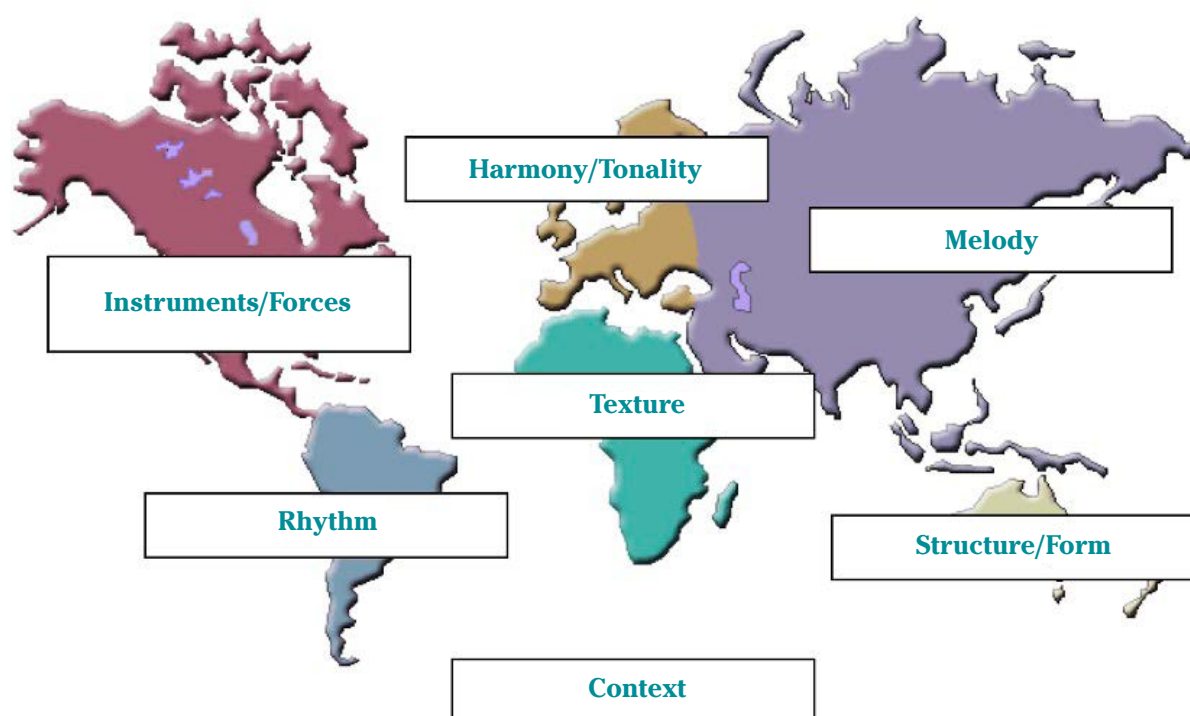

Key words

The Elements of Music

It can help to think about the different elements of music as an odd, unrelated idea. For example, you might think about the 7 elements of music as the 7 different continents, helping you to connect Geography and place with musical ideas.



This can help you to remember these important ideas.

Below is a table with some questions to ask yourself when discussing these different elements, as well as some of the vocabulary used.

INSTRUMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What instruments can you hear? • What instrumental family do they belong to? (e.g. percussion) • Are there any instrument-specific techniques being used? (e.g. <i>pizzicato</i>)
STRUCTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the music at the start come back later on? • If so, is it changed? • How is it similar to the music heard earlier? • How is it different to the music heard earlier?
RHYTHM & METRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note lengths – same or different? • Recurring rhythmic patterns – ostinato • Metre/no. beats per bar • Time Signature • Dotted rhythms – dance like
MELODY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range – small or large? • Conjunct (moving by step)/Disjunct (moving by leap) • Repetition • Use of motifs • Pitch – high or low?
HARMONY & TONALITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonality = what key the music is in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Major – often sounds happy – Minor – often sounds sad • Harmony = what chords are used <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consonant or dissonant?
TEXTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How thick or thin the music is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Thin = 1 solo instrument on its own (monophonic) – Thick = lots of instruments doing different things (contrapuntal) – Solo melody + accompaniment (melody and accompaniment or sometimes called homophony)
CONTEXT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When was the piece composed? • Who might have written it? • Who might have performed it? • Who has recorded it? • Was the music written down? Or was it passed down orally? • Is the music being improvised (made up on the spot)?

Music Theory

This page is a summary of some music theory that it would be useful for you to know in order to make progress in your musical development.

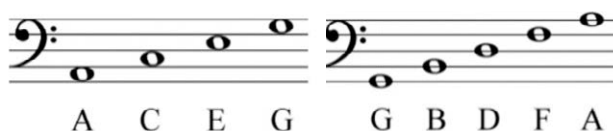
Instruments of the orchestra

WOODWIND	BRASS	PERCUSSION	STRINGS
Piccolo	French Horn	Timpani	Violin
Flute	Trumpet	Cymbals	Viola
Oboe	Trombone	Tambourine	Cello
Cor Anglais	Euphonium	Snare drum	Double Bass
Clarinet	Tuba	Glockenspiel	
Bass Clarinet		Xylophone	
Bassoon		Vibraphone	
Contrabassoon		Harp	
		Piano	
		Celeste	

Notes of the treble clef



Notes of the bass clef



Time signatures

Time signatures look like a fraction, but do not have a line between the numbers. Each number has a specific function:

- **Top number** = number of beats
(can be any number)
- **Bottom number** = type of beat
(can only be 1, 2, 4, 8, 16)

The type of beat is linked to the number of notes you can fit into a bar of 4 beats:

SIMPLE	COMPOUND
1 = semibreve 2 = minim 4 = crotchet	8 = quaver 16 = semiquaver