



Upper KS2

Music Keywords:

Keyword:	Definition:
A Capella	Without accompaniment from musical instruments i.e. voices only.
Appraising	Listening carefully.
Arrangements	How voices and instruments are used in a song; where they occur within the song.
Backing	The accompaniment to a song
Balance	The level of volume at which players sing or play; if the balance is good then everyone can be heard.
Ballad	A gentle love song.
Band	Playing/singing/performing together.
Bridge/Middle 8	Contrasting section which leads back to main material.
Choir	A group of musicians singing together.
Chord	More than one note played at the same time.
Chorus	A repeated section in a song which gives the main message.
Composing	Creating and developing musical ideas and 'fixing' these.
Coda	Short section which brings the song or piece to an end.
Conductor	A conductor is someone who leads and guides an orchestra or a group of singers in order to perform a piece to the best of their abilities.
Cover	A version of a song performed by someone other than the original artist that might sound a bit – or very – different.
Crescendo	Gradually getting louder (dynamics).
Decks	Equipment used by DJs, MCs and Rappers to mix sounds from different records and to make effects like scratching. First used in the late 1970s.
Diminuendo	Gradually getting quieter (dynamics).

Drumloops	A loop is a sequence of sounds/music that is recorded, maybe sampled, and reproduced digitally or electronically.
Dynamics	How loud or quiet the music is.
Ending	(Or outro) Short section which brings the song or piece to an end.
Ensemble	A French word used to describe playing/singing/performing together.
Forte	An Italian word meaning loud (dynamics).
Harmony	Different notes sung or played at the same time to produce chords.

Hook	A term used in pop music to describe a short catchy phrase or riff that we can't stop singing; the bit that 'hooks' us in; the main musical idea from a song that we remember.
Improvise	To make up a tune and play it on the spot; there is an assumption that it can never be recreated.
Introduction	Music heard at the beginning of a song or piece of music bridge; a section of music that can take us from a verse to a chorus, just as a bridge over a river takes us from one place to another.
Lyrics	The words of a song.
Melody	Another name for a tune. (Melodic – melody or tune.)
Musician	A person who plays an instrument or sings.
Notation	Ways to visually represent music.
Offbeat	If a piece of music has 4 beats in a bar i.e. 1 2 3 4, to clap on the offbeat you would clap on beats 2 and 4 not 1 and 3.
Orchestra	A large group of musicians who play many different instruments together and are led by a conductor.
Original	The first ever version of a song.
Ostinato	A short repeated pattern.
Performing	Singing and playing instruments.
Phrase	A musical sentence.
Piano	An Italian word meaning quiet (dynamics).

Pitch	The range of high and low sounds
Pulse/Beat	The heartbeat or steady beat of a song/piece of music.
Recurring theme	A tune that repeats again and again in a piece of music.
Rhythm	The combination of long and short sounds to make patterns.
Riff	A short repeated phrase, often played on a lead instrument such as guitar, piano or saxophone.
Roots reggae	Music that deals with social and racial issues and brings in elements of Rastafari.
Solo	An Italian word used to describe playing/singing/performing on our own.
Stave (or staff)	The name given to the 5 horizontal lines on which we can write music. Musical notes can be placed wither on a line or in a space. The higher the pitch of the note, the higher it will be on the stave.
Structure/Form/Shape	How the sections (verses and choruses etc.) of a song are ordered to make the whole piece.
Style	The type of Music e.g. blues or rock.
Style indicators	Identifiers that show us the genre of the music.
Syncopation	Music with lots of rhythmic variety, often quite difficult. The strong beats occur in unexpected places.
Tempo	An Italian word used to describe how fast/slow the music is.
Texture	Layers of sound in music.
Timbre	The quality and character of the sound.
Unison	Playing two or more sounds at the same pitch (or in octaves) together or simultaneously.
Verse	A section in a song which has the same tune but different words.