Melody – Knowledge Organiser

The Birley Academy

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.



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

Hook/riff

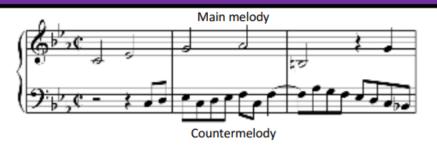
A memorable repeated melodic idea designed to catch the ear of the listener.



Scale/mode

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

Countermelody



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 te Windows

Ostinato - constant repetition of a melodic idea

Inversion – turn the melodic idea upside downtings to activate Win

Retrograde – play the melodic idea backwards

Articulation – Knowledge Organiser



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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

Slides



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

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

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

Dynamics – Knowledge Organiser



DYNAMICS refer to how loud or soft music is played. It is an important part of performing music **EXPRESSIVELY**.

