

# 5 A DAY THE CONCEPT WAY N4

## MELODY AND HARMONY

Melody and harmony concepts are words that describe what happens in the melody and how it is harmonised.

**ORNAMENT:** Just like in your home, an ornament is something that decorates. In Music it adds to the melody in a decorative way. There are various ornaments.

**TRILL:** A trill is a very fast ornament in which you play the note that is above and the note below, rapidly playing back and forth for the duration of the note.



[https://youtu.be/1EVvB\\_pri6Y](https://youtu.be/1EVvB_pri6Y) this clip explains and demonstrates trill

<https://youtu.be/z7rxl5KsPjs> This beautiful piece by Giuseppie Tartini (1692-1770) demonstrates trills from 1min 54 seconds in. Tartini was the first known owner of a Stradivarius violin!



**GRACE NOTE** is another type of ornament. This is usually a very fast note played before the actual note itself. It can sometimes be more than one note.



<https://youtu.be/Sqd72K1CeYI>

Bagpipes play lots of grace notes.

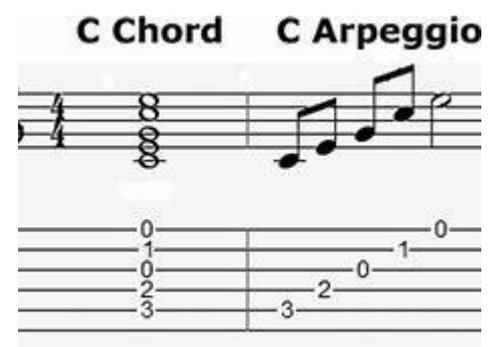


<https://youtu.be/pdjVcN39cu4>

**BROKEN CHORD:** A broken chord is simply a chord in which rather than playing the notes together, you play individually one after the other. A fancier name for this is an **arpeggio**.

Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata has broken chords throughout in the left hand.

<https://youtu.be/4Tr0otuiQuU>



**SCAT SINGING:** Scat singing is made up from nonsense words such as Scooby doot dat dooo. It often features in jazz music.

<https://youtu.be/YFcoC1FJOhA>



<https://youtu.be/rT1Kuy922c0>



<https://youtu.be/Hy8kmNEo1i8>

**DRONE:** A drone is the long continual (sustained) sound you hear on the bagpipes. It is the underlying note form which the melody is played over.

<https://youtu.be/4i2brqPhAsQ>



**MAJOR:** Music with major tonality tends to be brighter. Major music is based on the major scale.

In C this would be C D E F G A B C

<https://youtu.be/9UbTsiQ-f6s> Listen to this weird example of Harry Potter Theme played in a major key!



<https://youtu.be/drnBMAEA3AM> The sound of Music demonstrates the major scale and major tonality.



**MINOR:** Music with minor tonality tends to be darker.

[https://youtu.be/GTXBLyp7\\_Dw](https://youtu.be/GTXBLyp7_Dw) Harry Potter as it should be!



[https://youtu.be/Go\\_p6oD7AIE](https://youtu.be/Go_p6oD7AIE)

<https://youtu.be/bH2Y5BNE7fA>



**CHANGE OF KEY: Modulation** is another concept that means a change of key. This occurs when there is a shift in the music to another key that works well. It is a good technique to use in composing and is usually created by using a pivot chord that is used in both keys. This ensures the change of key is not too abrupt.

It is wise to change key to a new key that has similarities and shares some of the same DNA. When in a Major key and you want to find the relative minor, you simply go back three notes.

In C Major, a good key to modulate to is A minor (C-B-A)

In G Major, a good key to modulate to is E minor (G F#E)

These relative minors have the same key signature as their relative major but when played, a few notes are altered. You will hear this in the clip below.

There are other modulations you can use. An obvious key change occurs when the music literally shifts up a note.

<https://youtu.be/6IojqTwBj3Y>



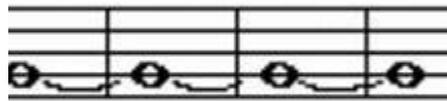
**VAMP:** A vamp is an oom-cha type accompaniment. A type of vamp is used in Scottish dances.



<https://youtu.be/ntBTKfmPSHQ>

**PEDAL:** A pedal is a long held (sustained) or repeated note that is low in pitch- in the bass. It can create tension or mystery to the piece. (some pedal notes can be higher)

<https://youtu.be/cQl9SJYAUMk> Dont worry if some of this video is too complicated. Still really worth listening too as there are superb examples!



## RHYTHM AND TEMPO

Rhythm and tempo concepts describe anything that happens to the rhythm and speed of the music.

### SIMPLE TIME

In simple time, the main beats of the bar can be divided into twos. (simp-le) The main beats are crotchets.

Time signatures such as:

| Simple Time Signatures |                   |                     |                       |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Type Of Beat           | Duple Time        | Triple Time         | Quadruple Time        |
| Crotchet Beat          | $\frac{2}{4}$ ♩ ♩ | $\frac{3}{4}$ ♩ ♩ ♩ | $\frac{4}{4}$ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ |

<https://youtu.be/qxVBYHHYX70> this little video explains time signatures and bar-lines in simple time.

**ANDANTE** is a tempo concept and means to play at a moderate walking pace. Look at the diagram below to see how fast this is. (60 beats per minute is the speed of a second) <https://youtu.be/vRnIT-hnj4s>

| Italian  | English                    | Beats per minute |
|----------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Presto   | Very fast                  | 168-208          |
| Allegro  | Fast                       | 120-168          |
| Moderato | Moderate speed             | 108-120          |
| Andante  | Moderate walking speed     | 76-108           |
| Adagio   | Slow (literally "at ease") | 66-76            |
| Largo    | Slow and solemn            | 40-66            |

|                                                                                          |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  = 90 | Tempo instruction<br>This sign means that the music has a tempo of 90 beats per minute. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



**RALLENTANDO:** Is a term used to tell the performer to gradually slow down. Often use at the end of the piece or, the end of a phrase.



**ACCELERANDO** means to gradually get faster. Just like you would accelerate in a car!



**A TEMPO:** this concept means that you revert back to the original speed of the music after you have had a change like rallentando or accelerando.



**SCOTCH SNAP:** You will hear this music in the Scottish dance- Strathspey. A scotch snap is as it sounds- a rhythm that snaps. Normally a quarter beat note (semiquaver) followed by a dotted quaver.



[https://youtu.be/\\_1UrgW1g6W4](https://youtu.be/_1UrgW1g6W4)

Scotch snaps are not only heard in Scottish music. They can be heard in many different styles including Hip-hop, World Music, and Jazz etc. <https://youtu.be/i7cG9QIvIWo>



**DOTTED RHYTHMS** are written the opposite way from a scotch snap. The first note is longer this time and is the dotted quaver which is followed by the semiquaver.

They look like- 

They are often played alongside scotch snaps. The Scottish strathspey demonstrates both.

<https://youtu.be/IV-0JQzUXKM>

## ANACRUSIS



An anacrusis is a little upbeat before the start of a bar or a phrase. It often comes at the start of a piece (not always).

The music therefore does not begin on beat one of the bar.

<https://youtu.be/LXKy0ECIJ9g>

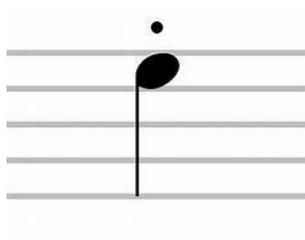
## ACCENT

Accents are notes that are played stronger. You play into the note harder. You know when to play an accent when you see this over the note head:



## STACCATO

Staccato notes are played short, crisp and detached. You know when to play staccato when you see a dot over the note head:



[https://youtu.be/Pnw\\_S8ml2sM](https://youtu.be/Pnw_S8ml2sM)

## TEXTURE, STRUCTURE and FORM

These types of concepts describe how the music is built up. How the melodies are knitted together. The architecture or construction of a building would be a good comparison.

### IMITATION



Imitation is when something tries to copy something else. In Music, imitation occurs when one parts tries to play the same as another instrument or voice has just played but at their pitch. A cello for example would copy what a flute plays at a much lower pitch.

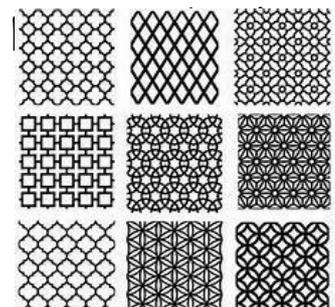
<https://youtu.be/4egNeuAf0Bq> this piece of music, from Handel's Messiah, demonstrates imitation.

### OSTINATO

An ostinato is an obstinate, repeating musical at the repeating patterns in this-

Listen to the drum ostinato in this piece:

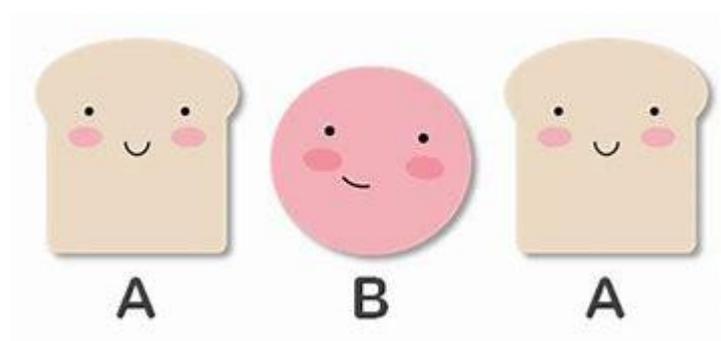
<https://youtu.be/O0TQiVL9zN4>



## TERNARY

Ternary is a form in Music made up of 3 sections.

A section A followed by a different section B ending with a repeat of section A again. <https://youtu.be/M7gxQpjezXA>



## CANON [https://youtu.be/JvNQLJ1\\_HQ0](https://youtu.be/JvNQLJ1_HQ0)

This is a form of imitation in which one part starts then another perhaps a bar or 2 later with the exact same music. They never catch up on each other. Staggered starts to the same music.



**CADENZA:** A cadenza is an opportunity for the soloist to show off their skills and play beautiful, technically demanding music. These were originally improvised and would end with a trill. They were used in Concertos.

<https://youtu.be/7IwVou8HAHc>

<https://youtu.be/IMA01AsFQhM>

Cadenzas are also heard in vocal music.



## **TIMBRE**

Timbre concepts describe what instrument, voice or group are performing and how they are played. (Playing technique)

## **BACKING VOCALS:**

Backing vocals support the main singer in a band. They are highly skilled performers in their own and often sing fabulous harmonies. Try watching the film "20 feet from stardom" which is a documentary about backing vocalists.



<https://youtu.be/xjZldG5qkV4>

**DISTORTION:** This is an electronic effect that creates a distortion of what you would usually hear. The music sounds fuzzy and gritty. <https://youtu.be/iYU90XajYmU>



**MUTED:** When you mute an instrument you simply muffle the sound. Mutes come in different shapes and sizes depending on the actual instrument. Some Dixieland Jazz band players even used their hats over the sound hole to create a mute effect.

Many instruments can be muted including violins and trumpets.

<https://youtu.be/Uqwbj0S5FKg>

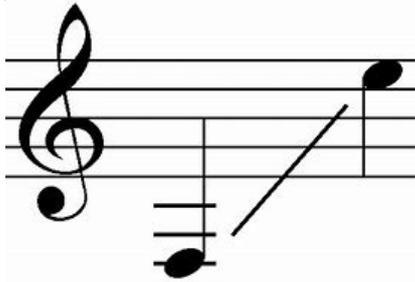
<https://youtu.be/EZamplraxSo>



**ALTO** <https://youtu.be/rYEDA3JcQqw>

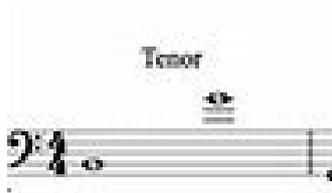
An Alto is a low female singer not as high as a Soprano.

Typical alto voice range:



**TENOR** <https://youtu.be/ERD4CbBDNIO>

A Tenor is a high male singer not as low as a Bass.



## STYLES

Styles are concepts that are used to describe what type of music you may be listening to. It also can refer to the period it was written in.

## OPERA



<https://youtu.be/xCFEk6Y8TmM>

An Opera is a more serious vocal production. (Although the content can sometimes be humorous). It combines singing, acting, staging, costumes, orchestra and sometimes dance. Opera plots can be complicated. The first opera was written during the Baroque period and was called L'Orfeo by a composer called Monteverdi. Operas have solo songs called ARIAS that show off the skill of the singer. They also have CHORUS where all the other singers join in.

The example above is from the famous opera 'Rigoletto' by the composer Giuseppe Verdi written in 1851. He wrote approx. 27 operas. Other famous opera composers are Mozart and Bizet among many others. A good place to learn more about opera is Classic FM:

<https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/periods-genres/opera/opera-where-start/>

**CONCERTO:** The first Concerto was also composed in the Baroque period (1600-1750). The Concerto grew from the idea of having 2 different groups working together.

A Concerto features a main solo instrument player that prominently plays solos throughout as well as blending in with the orchestra. The solos are called CADENZAS in which the soloist shows off their skill and technique.

A Concerto is usually in 3 movements. Each movement has its own form, tempo and characteristics. They are often designed as fast; slow; fast in tempo.

(If you go to watch a performance of a Concerto, remember not to clap in-between movements as this is frowned upon!)

Vivaldi composed a set of 4 Concertos based on the Seasons. <https://youtu.be/g1hEszuZ4lo>

Concertos have been written for many different instruments including piano, violin, cello, oboe etc.



**MOUTH MUSIC:** This is mainly unaccompanied vocal music used for dancing. It is sung in Gaelic or nonsense words.

<https://youtu.be/fEqBw2N8L7A>

<https://youtu.be/OM8Uv5RFOyM>



**RAGTIME:** This music was often played on the piano in the 1930s. It features an off the beat feel (syncopation) in the melody against an oomph cha vamp left hand style. Scott Joplin composed many rags. This is perhaps his most well-known rag- 'The Entertainer'

<https://youtu.be/kpPbfkXesRE>



## REGGAE



<https://youtu.be/vdB-8eLEW8g>

Reggae music was developed in the late 1960s in Jamaica.

The bass guitar often plays the lead role in reggae. The bass sound in reggae is thick and heavy.

Reggae was often used to make a political or religious point through the lyrics but not always as some reggae songs are simply about love etc.

It features syncopated (off the beat) rhythms and often has staccato type chords played on guitar or piano. Reggae songs are quite cool to listen to and fun to dance to.



Bob Marley is known as the legendary reggae master.