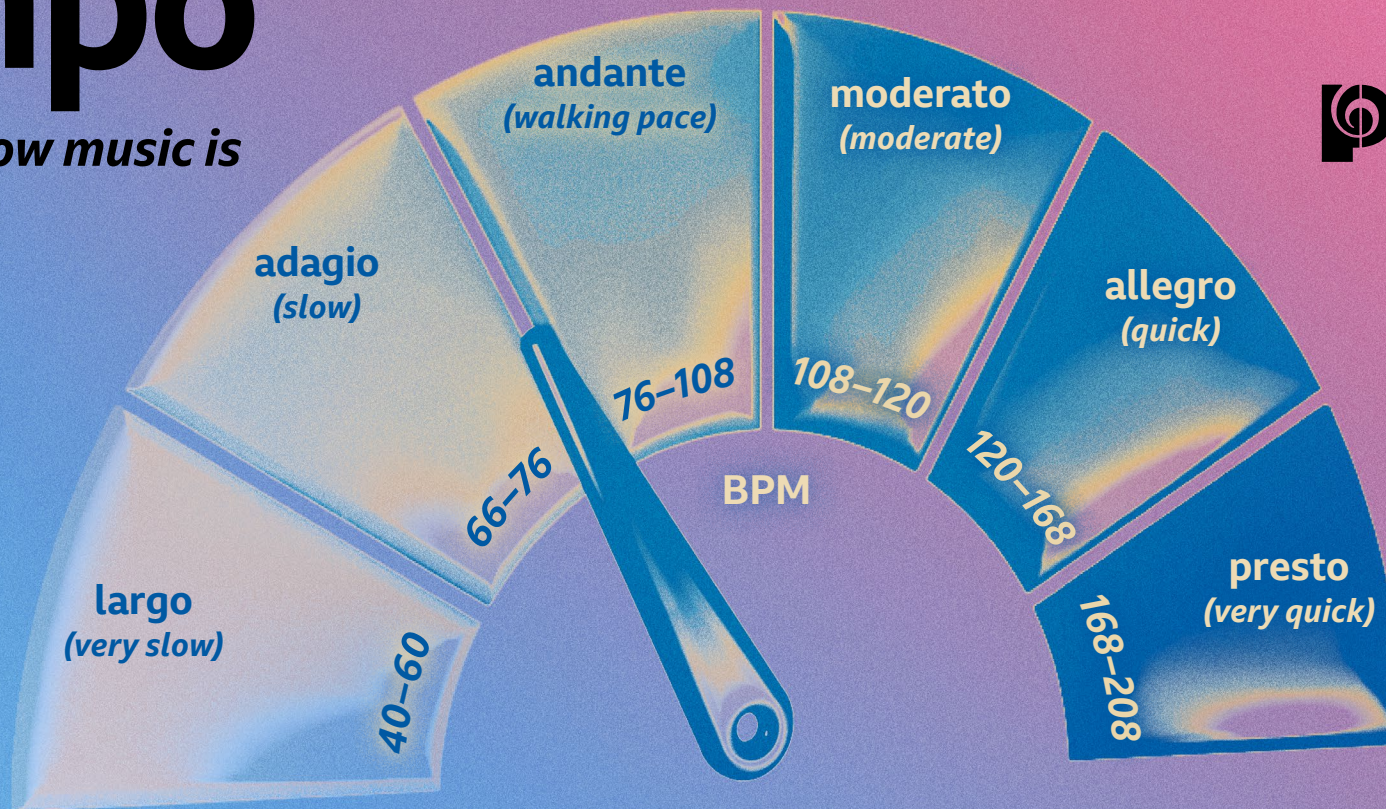


Tempo

How fast or slow music is



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Tempo is measured in beats per minute (BPM).
The pulse of the music controls the tempo.
Italian words are often used to describe tempo.

The tempo can change during a piece of music.

Italian

accelerando (accel.)
rallentando (rall.)
ritardando (rit.)
a tempo

English

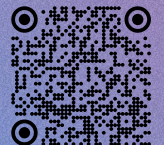
gradually getting quicker
gradually getting slower
gradually getting slower
return to original tempo



Watch a clip
about tempo

bbc.co.uk/tenpieces

Listen to music with
contrasting tempi



Dynamics



*How loudly or quietly
music should be played*

Quiet
piano

Loud
forte

Italian words and abbreviations are
used for dynamics in music.

Symbol	Italian	English
<i>pp</i>	pianissimo	very quiet
<i>p</i>	piano	quiet
<i>mp</i>	mezzo piano	moderately quiet
<i>mf</i>	mezzo forte	moderately loud

Symbol	Italian	English
<i>f</i>	forte	loud
<i>ff</i>	fortissimo	very loud
	crescendo	getting louder
	diminuendo	getting quieter



Watch a clip
about dynamics

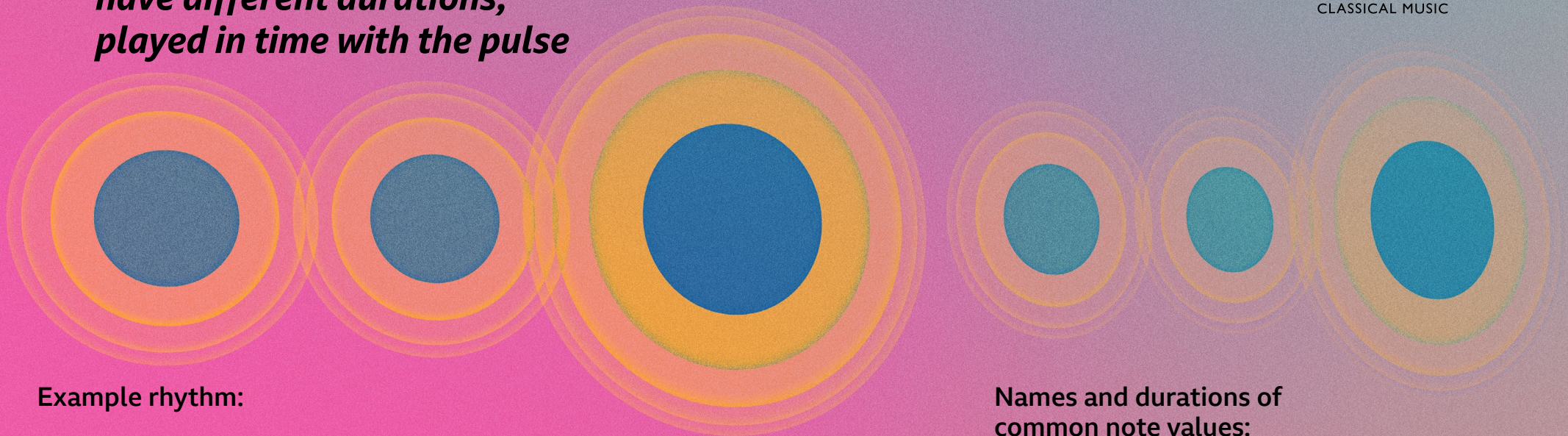
bbc.co.uk/tenpieces

Listen to music with
contrasting dynamics



Rhythm

Patterns of sounds that have different durations, played in time with the pulse



Example rhythm:

Pulse

Rhythm

Count

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing a sequence of eighth notes. The first measure contains four eighth notes, and the second measure contains four eighth notes. Above the staff, there are eight heart-shaped pulses, each aligned with a note. Below the staff, the counts 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4 are written, corresponding to each note. Vertical dotted lines connect the pulses, the notes, and the counts.

Names and durations of common note values:

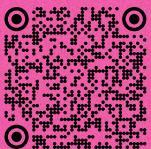
Semibreve
(4 beats)

Minim
(2 beats)

Crotchet
(1 beat)

Quaver
($\frac{1}{2}$ beat)

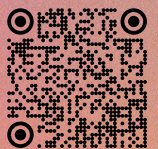
Semiquaver
($\frac{1}{4}$ beat)

A series of five musical staves, each showing a different note value. The first staff shows a semibreve (4 beats), the second a minim (2 beats), the third a crotchet (1 beat), the fourth a quaver (1/2 beat), and the fifth a semiquaver (1/4 beat). Vertical dotted lines are drawn through all the staves to indicate the duration of each note.

Watch a clip
about rhythm

bbc.co.uk/tenpieces

Listen to music with
exciting rhythms



Structure

*How a piece of music is organised
(also called form)*

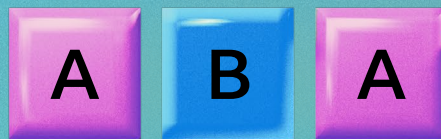


Songs or pieces of music can be made up of contrasting musical sections. These different sections can be labelled (A, B, C etc) to help us understand the structure of a piece of music.

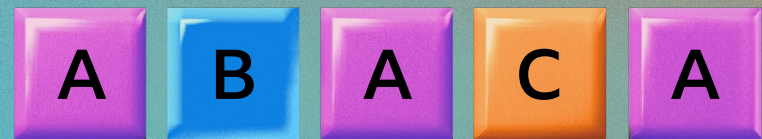
In a song, the verse could be A and the chorus B.



Binary form



Ternary form



Rondo form



Watch a clip
about structure (form)

bbc.co.uk/tenpieces

Listen to music
in rondo form



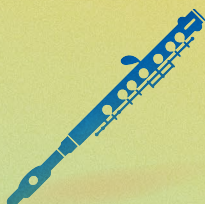
Pitch

How high or low a sound is

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The piccolo is **SMALL**
and can play very
HIGH sounds



The double bass is **LARGE** and can play
very **LOW** sounds



Watch a clip
about pitch

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Listen to music with
soaring pitch



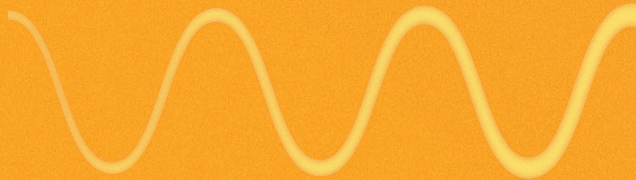
Texture

How instrumental or vocal layers are combined

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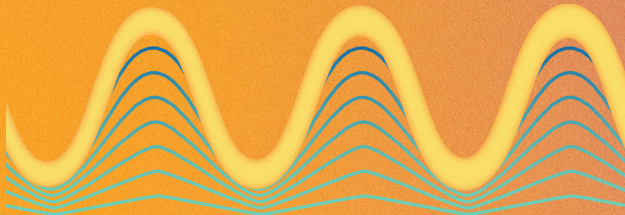
Thin



Monophonic

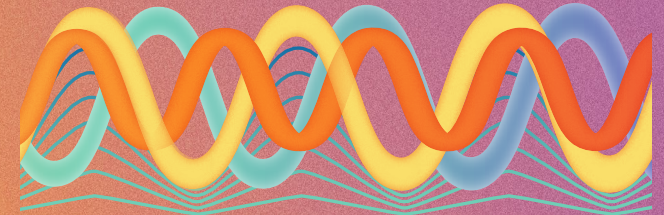
A single melody, with no harmony

Thick



Homophonic

Melody with harmony



Polyphonic

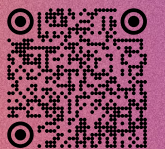
Two or more independent melodies



Watch a clip
about texture

bbc.co.uk/tenpieces

Listen to music with
different textures



Timbre

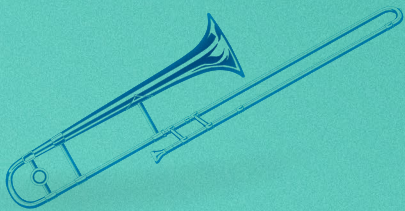
*A word we use to describe the character
or colour of a musical sound*

Timbre is pronounced: TAM-bruh

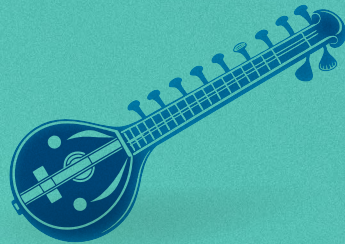
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These instruments are
all similar in size, but each
one has a unique sound



Trombone



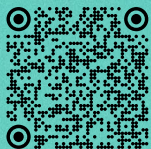
Sitar



Saxophone



Guitar



Watch a clip
about timbre

bbc.co.uk/tenpieces

Listen to music with
contrasting timbres

