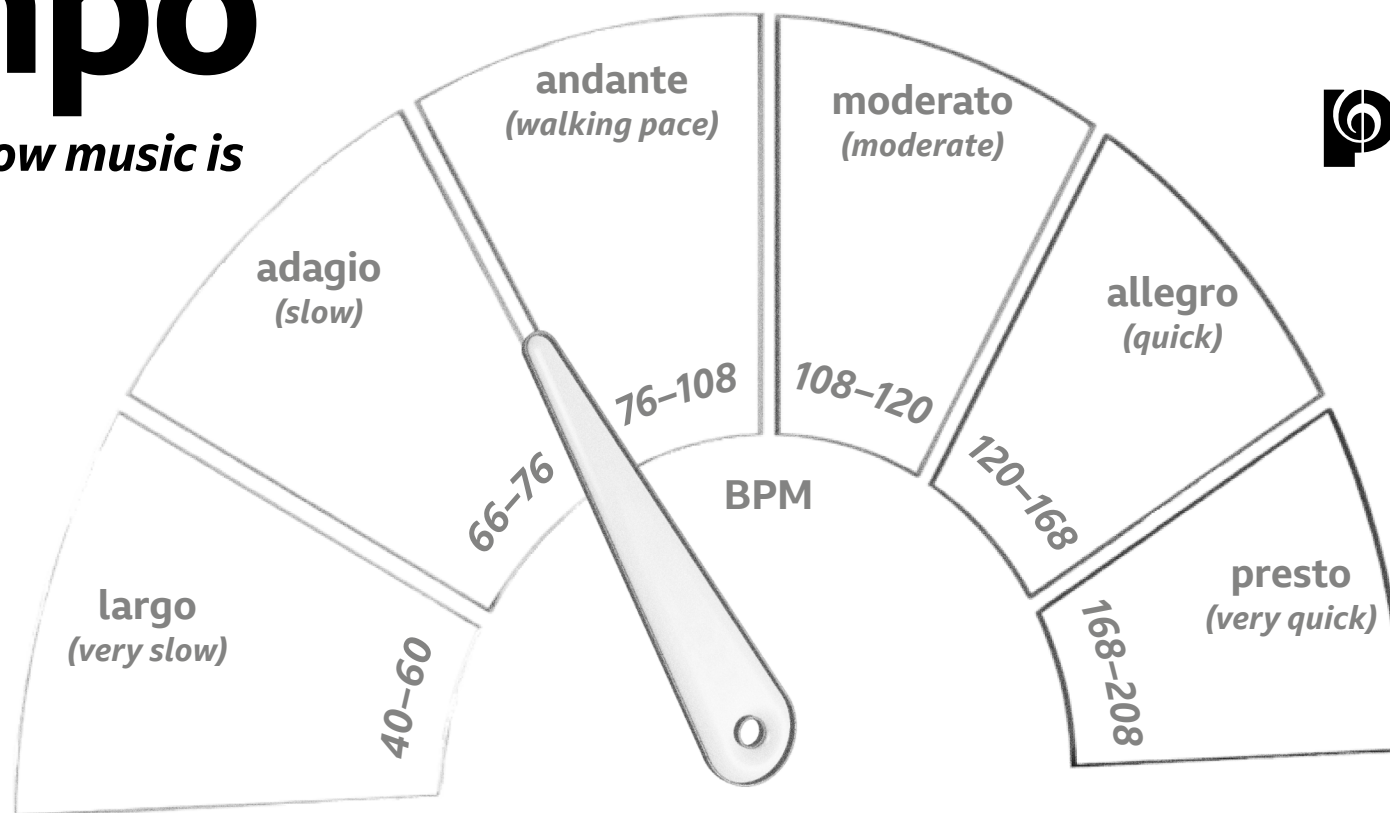


Tempo

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

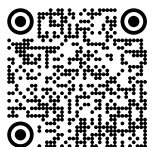
Symbol	Italian	English
<i>f</i>	forte	loud
<i>ff</i>	fortissimo	very loud
	crescendo	getting louder
	diminuendo	getting quieter



Watch a clip
about dynamics

bbc.co.uk/tenpieces

Listen to music with
contrasting dynamics



Rhythm



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

Example rhythm:

Pulse

Rhythm

Count

Names and durations of
common note values:

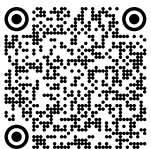
Semibreve
(4 beats)

Minim
(2 beats)

Crotchet
(1 beat)

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

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



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)*

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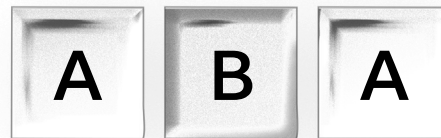


Songs or pieces of music can be made up of contrasting musical sections. These different sections can be labelled (A, B, C etc) to help us understand the structure of a piece of music.

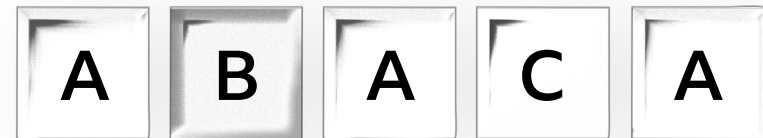
In a song, the verse could be A and the chorus B.



Binary form



Ternary form



Rondo form



Watch a clip
about structure (form)

bbc.co.uk/tenpieces

Listen to music
in rondo form

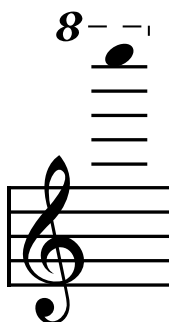
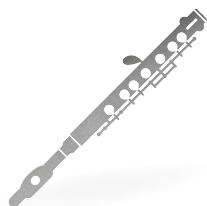


Pitch

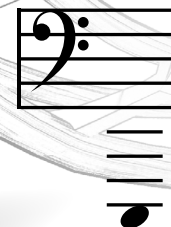
How high or low a sound is

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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

bbc.co.uk/tenpieces

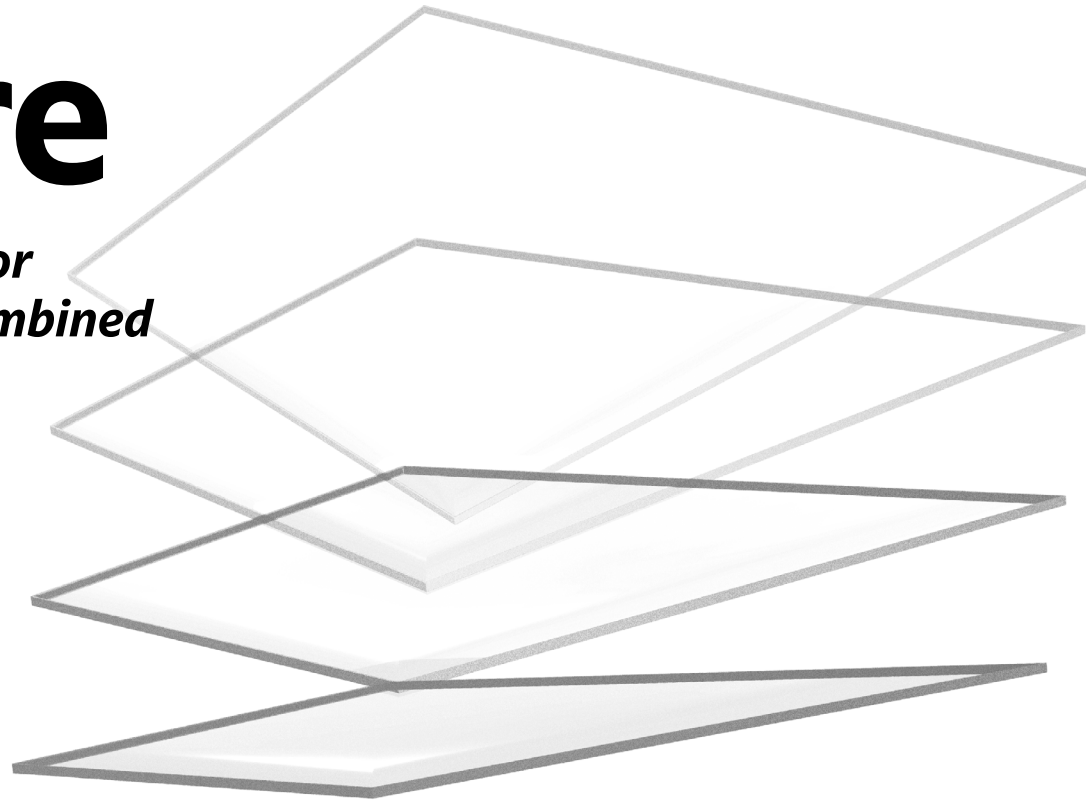
Listen to music with
soaring pitch



Texture

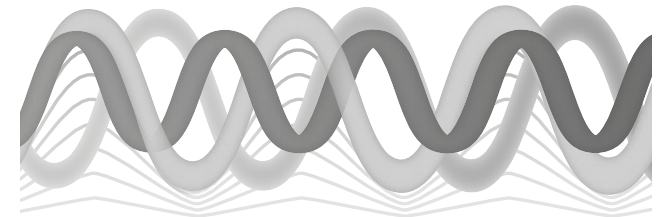
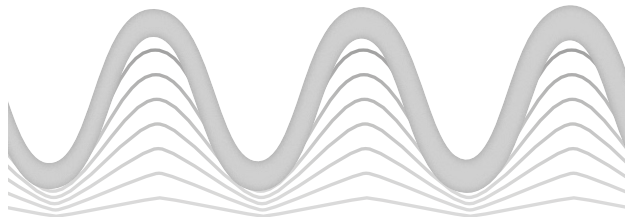
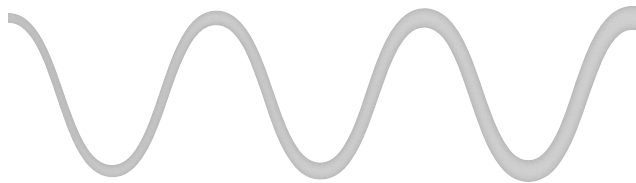
How instrumental or vocal layers are combined

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Thin

Thick



Monophonic

A single melody, with no harmony

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

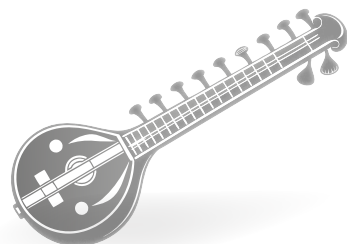
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These instruments are
all similar in size, but each
one has a unique sound



Trombone



Sitar



Saxophone



Guitar



Watch a clip
about timbre

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Listen to music with
contrasting timbres

