MUSIC APPRECIATION

ELEMENTS OF MUSIC

MUSIC IS MADE OF?

SOUND & SILENCE

ALL SOUND HAS:

- Pitch - the highness and lowness of a sound
- Dynamics - the loudness and softness heard in music
- Timbre (tone color) - the *quality* of a sound that distinguishes one sound from another.
- Duration - length of time a sound lasts

PITCH SPECTRUM

DYNAMIC LEVELS

DYNAMIC LEVELS

- pp (pianissimo) very soft
- p (piano) soft
- mp (mezzo piano) medium soft
- mf (mezzo forte) medium loud
- f (forte) loud
- ff (fortissimo) very loud

TIMBRE (TONE COLOR)

HOW ONE SOUND IS DISTINGUISHED FROM ANOTHER

DURATION

LENGTH OF TIME A SOUND LASTS
SOMETIMES WORDS USED ARE “RHYTHM" & “BEAT”

pause

HOW MUSIC AFFECTS YOUR BRAIN

PERFORMING MEDIA

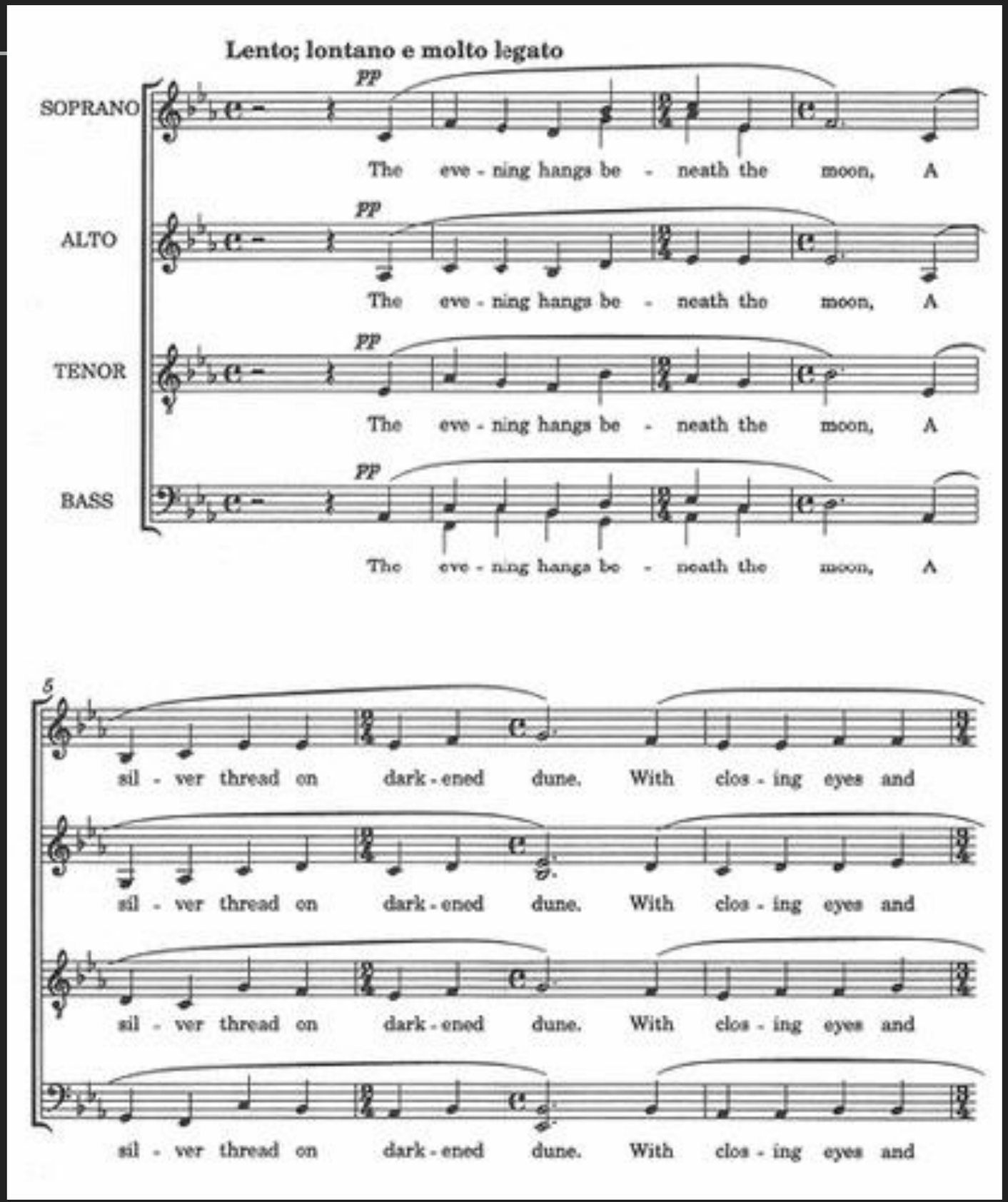
VOICE & INSTRUMENTS

VOICE CATEGORIES

- soprano - highest female voice
- alto - lowest female voice
- tenor - highest male voice
- bass - lowest male voice

[SLEEP - VOCES 8]

[Start at 3:00 mark]



INSTRUMENT FAMILIES

STRINGS

WOODWINDS

instruments made of wood, or use a reed to produce sound.

BRASS

instruments originally made of brass, or use a “cupped” mouthpiece to produce sound.

PERCUSSION

instruments that are “struck” to produce a sound

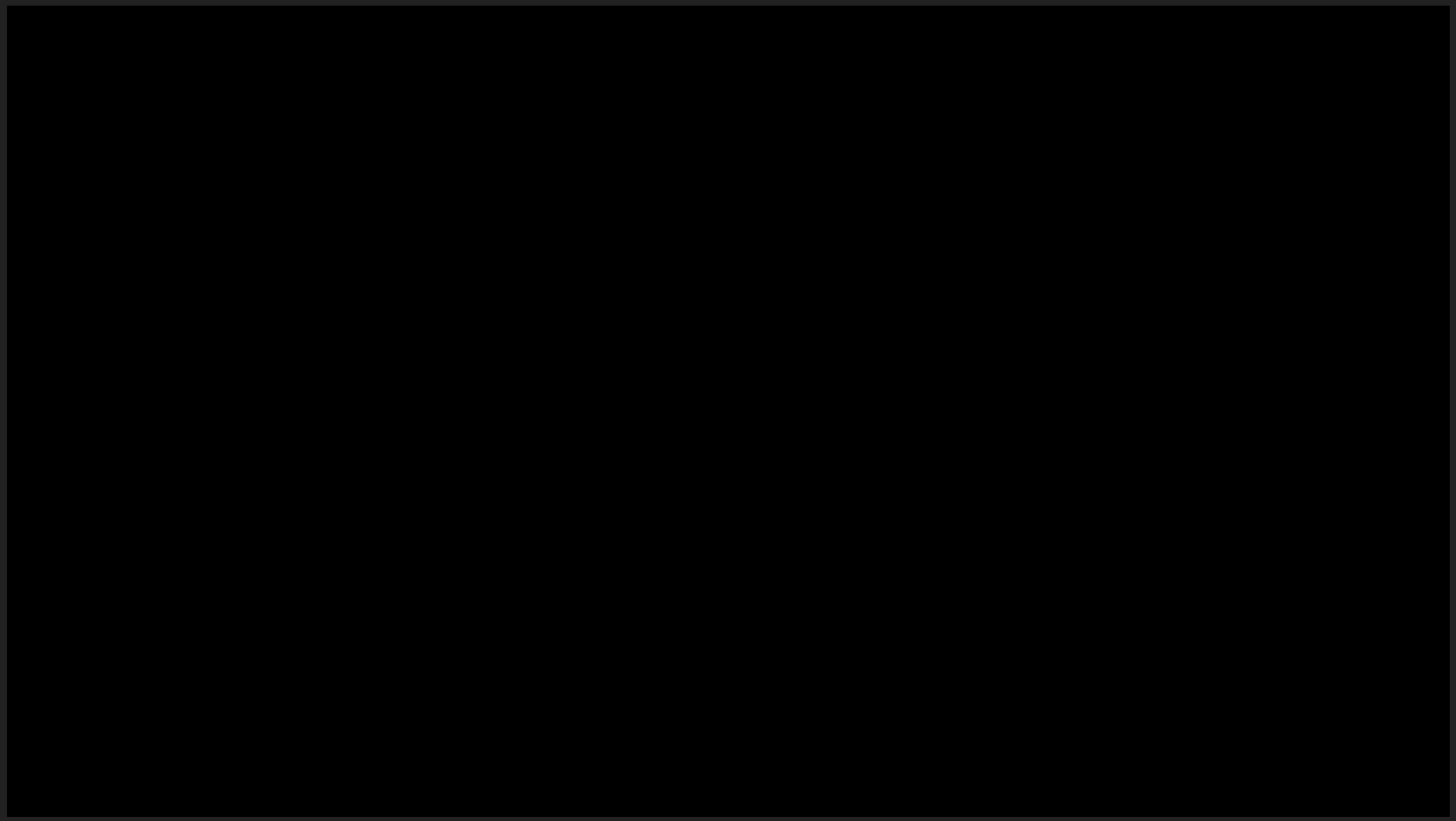
KEYBOARD

instruments that use a “keyboard” to play different pitches.

ELECTRONIC

instruments that produce sounds “electronically”

LESS COMMON INSTRUMENTS…



pause

MUSICAL PERFORMERS

METER

In music we often find a repeated pattern of a strong beat plus one or more weaker beats. The organization of beats into regular groups is called “meter”. A group containing a fixed number of beats is called a measure (aka – bar). There are several types of meter, which are based on the number of beats in a measure.

https://youtu.be/Qkuqjrwlkxk

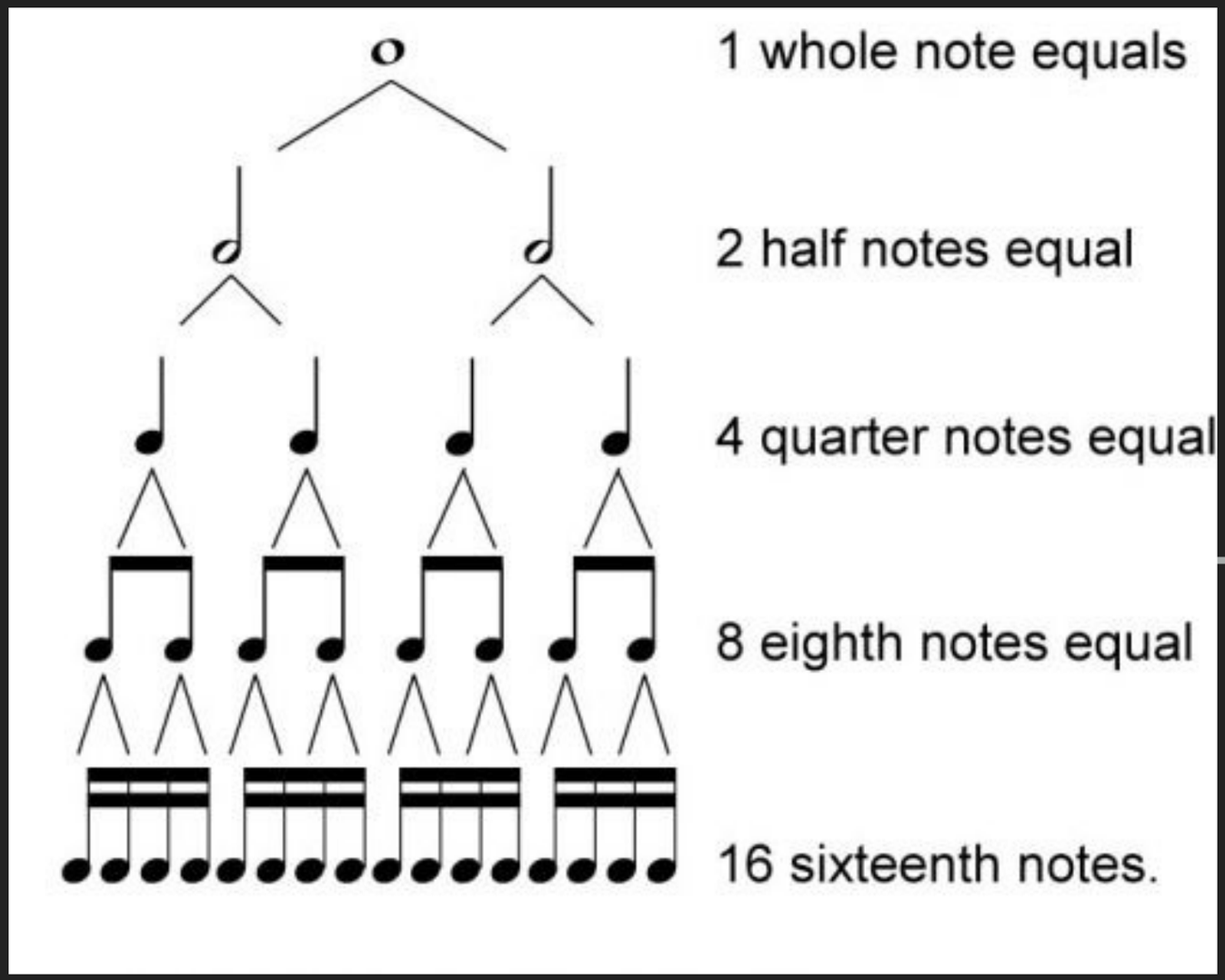
- An important aspect of rhythm is the way individual notes are stressed, or emphasized. A note being played louder, longer, or higher in pitch is creating an ***accent***.

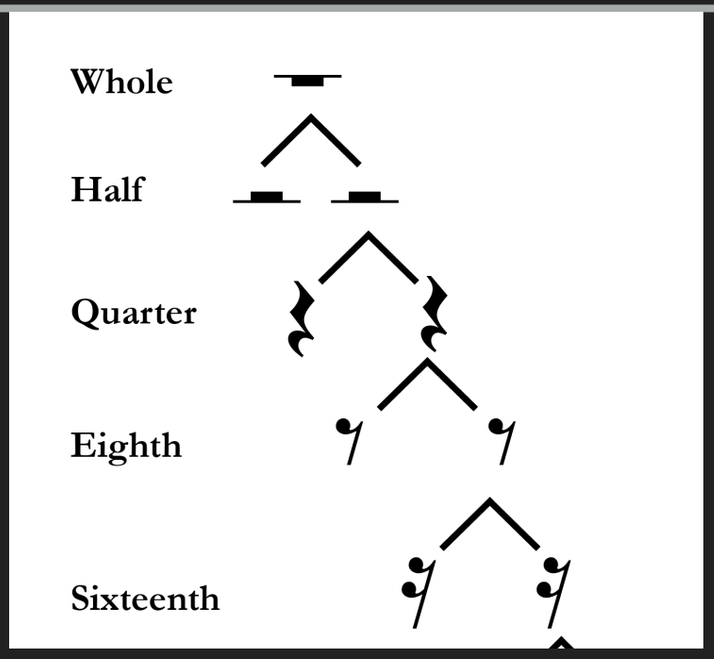
- When an accented note comes where we should not normally expect one, the effect is known as ***syncopation***.

https://youtu.be/WbultyEVOqw

NOTES & RESTS

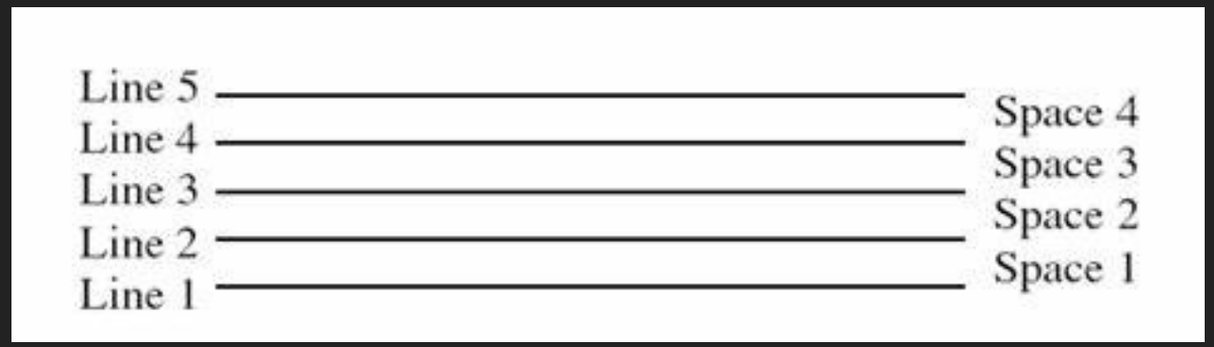
NOTATION IS A SYSTEM OF WRITING MUSIC SO THAT SPECIFIC PITCHES & RHYTHMS CAN BE COMMUNICATED.





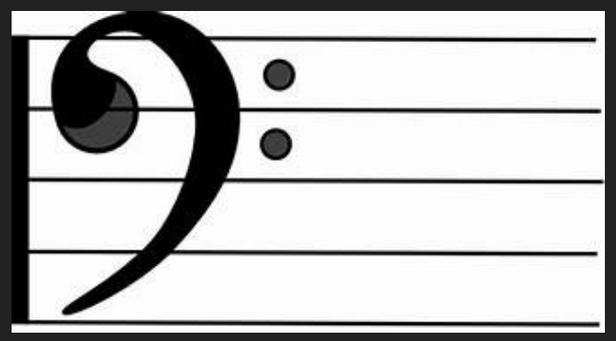
STAFF & CLEFS

To know what the composer wanted their music to sound like, notes and rests need to be placed on a staff. A staff is a graph of five horizontal lines and the four spaces between each line:

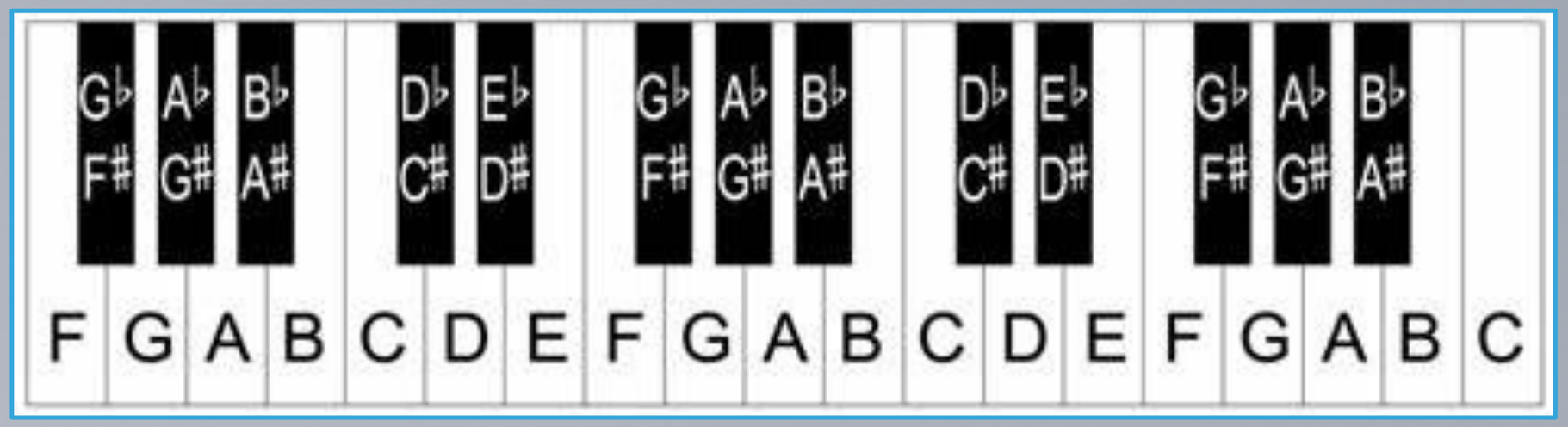


Now, since the staff has 9 spots for sounds (5 lines & 5 spaces), that would limit our music... of course there is a solution!
Multiple staves (plural of "staff") can be used at a time! The options are HUGE!!

To show a difference in the staves, a symbol is placed at the beginning of the staff called a "CLEF". These clef symbols show you where the music alphabet should be placed. The most common clef symbols are the TREBLE CLEF and the BASS CLEF. Instruments and voices with a higher range will use the treble clef and instruments with a lower range will use the bass clef.

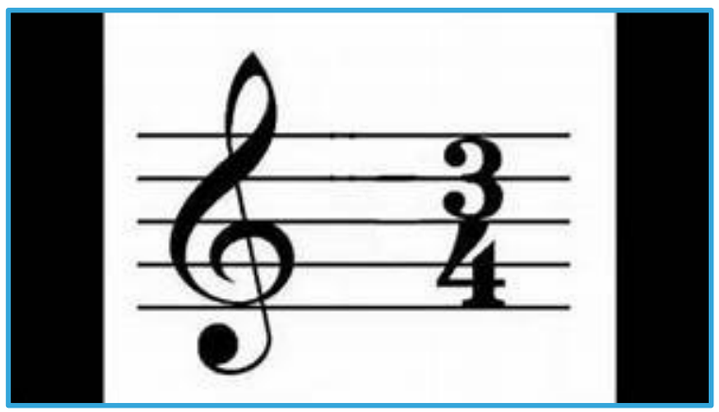


Now that we have a bit of knowledge about the staff, clefs, & notes, lets talk about the music alphabet. The music alphabet is made up of seven letters - A B C D E F G . That is it! However, unlike our own alphabet, these letters can be used over and over again. So, after "G" comes the letter "A" and the process starts over. The easiest way is to visually see it on a piano keyboard. Notice the white keys specifically. The alphabet repeats itself on a full size piano over eleven times! Also, you may have already found the pattern...



MUSIC ALPHABET

A TIME SIGNATURE (AKA METER SIGNATURE) SHOWS THE METER OF A PIECE OF MUSIC. IT APPEARS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE STAFF AT THE START OF A PIECE & CONSISTS OF TWO NUMBERS – ONE ON TOP OF THE OTHER, LIKE A FRACTION IN MATH.



The upper number tells how many beats fall into a measure; the lower number tells what kind of note gets the beat – for instance, “4” refers to a quarter note. Therefore the time signature to the left shows that there are three beats to the measure & a quarter note gets 1 beat.

MELODY:

A melody is a series of single tones that add up to a recognizable whole. In other words, it is the part of the song that gets stuck in your head & you sing along with when you hear it playing.

A melody begins, moves, & ends. It has direction, shape, & continuity. The up and down movement of its pitches conveys tension & release, expectation & arrival.

A melody moves by small intervals called STEPS or by larger ones called LEAPS

Listening assignment: Somewhere Over the Rainbow

pause

Monophonic:

The texture of a single melodic line without accompaniment; having one sound (mono = one, phonic = sound).

Polyphonic:

Two or more melodic lines performed simultaneously to create harmony (poly = many, phonic = sound). An example of this would be the children's tune "Row, Row, Row Your Boat.

Homophonic:

One main melody accompanied by chords. (homo = same, phonic = sound)

Textbook: part 1, section 8 = "An Introduction to Texture" red note tab

HARMONY

refers to the way chords are constructed & how they follow each other. A CHORD is a combination of three or more tones sounded at once (triad) – a chord is a group of simultaneous tones & a melody is a series of individual tones heard one after the other.

TEXTURE

how many different layers of sound are heard at once, what kind of layers they are (melody or harmony), & how they are related to each other.

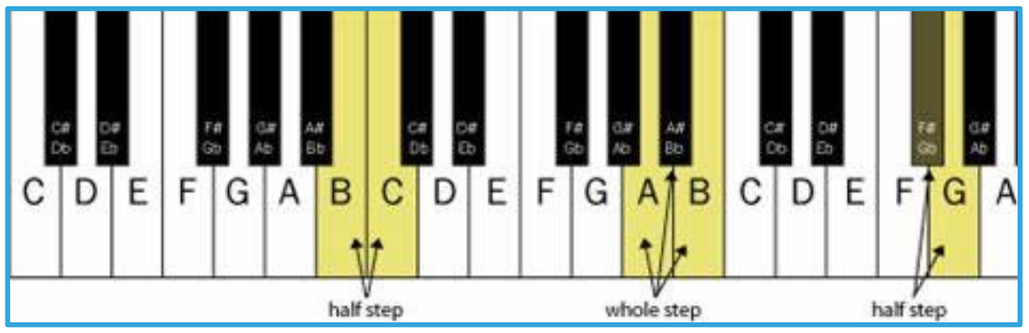
Texture can be described as transparent, dense, thick, thin, heavy, or light. Variations in texture create contrast & drama

KEY & SCALES

IN MUSIC, THE “KEY” IS A TONE, SCALE, & CHORD IN WHICH THE MUSIC IS CENTERED.

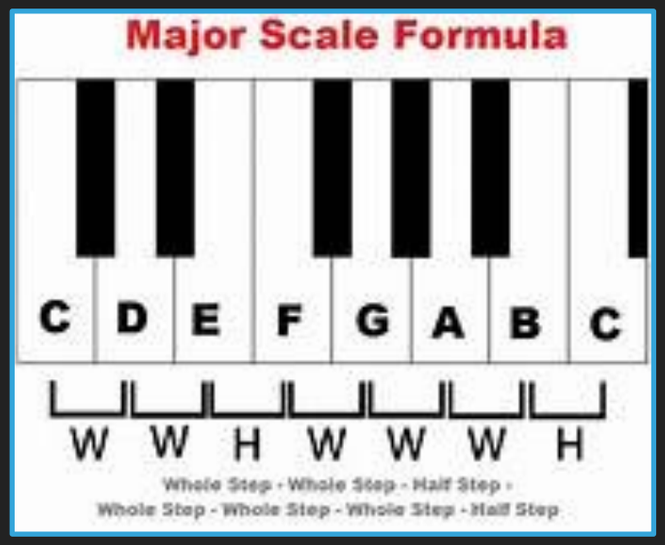
A “SCALE” IS A COLLECTION OF PITCHES. A SCALE CAN CONSISTS OF FIVE PITCHES, EIGHT PITCHES, OR EVEN TWELVE PITCHES.

THE MOST COMMONLY USED SCALE IS A MAJOR SCALE. THE MAJOR SCALE USES A PATTERN OF WHOLE STEPS AND HALF STEPS. IN SINGING, WE USE SOMETHING CALLED "SOLFEGE" TO SING A MAJOR SCALE - DO RE MI FA SO LA TI DO. THE BEST WAY TO SEE A SCALE IS BY USING THE VIEW OF A PIANO KEYBOARD.



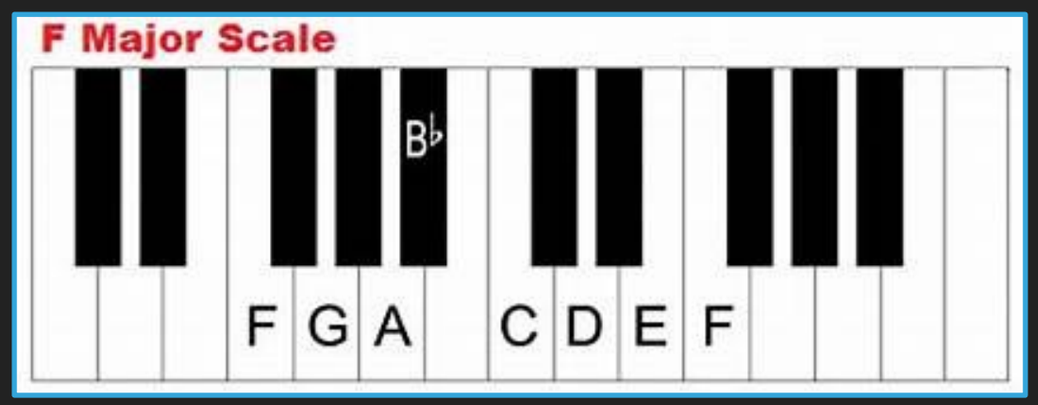
A piano keyboard is made of half steps. Two half steps will equal a whole step. A white key to a black key OR a black key to a white key is a HALF STEP. There is an exception! Notice the patterns of black keys; there are some white keys that do not have black keys between them... B to C and E to F. Those are half steps as well.

MAJOR SCALE



A MAJOR SCALE IS MADE UP OF THE PATTERN – WHOLE STEP, WHOLE STEP, HALF STEP, WHOLE STEP, WHOLE STEP, WHOLE STEP, HALF STEP. IF WE BEGIN ON THE LETTER C AND FOLLOW THE PATTERN OF HALF STEPS AND WHOLE STEPS, WE WILL USE ONLY THE WHITE KEYS – THE HALF STEPS HAPPEN AT E TO F AND B TO C.

We are going to look at one more. The black keys have two different names. Besides a sharp (#), there is also a symbol called a flat and looks like a lower case letter B (b). Lets follow the pattern for a major scale again, but this time lets start on the key that has the letter F. Remember the pattern, WWHWWWH:



This scale uses almost all white keys, however there is a hiccup when you reach the first half step of the pattern. You have to use the black key to the right of A. We wont call it A# because we have already used the letter A in the pattern and the pattern would then be missing the letter B. *All major scales will use all letters of the music alphabet – just some will have sharps (#) or flats (b) to make the pattern work. We need to use the letter B. Therefore we are going to use A# alter ego name – Bb (flat).

pause

MUSICAL FORM

Form in music is the organization of the musical elements in time. All parts of the composition are interrelated (composition, pitch, tone color, dynamics, rhythm, melody, & texture)

CONTRAST: loud vs soft; strings vs woodwinds; fast vs slow; major vs minor

VARIATION: musical idea that has some features remain the same, while others are changed

TYPES OF FORM

THREE-PART FORM (A B A): also called 'ternary'

A section, contrasting B section, back to the A section

TWO-PART FORM (A B): also called 'binary'

A section is the statement, B sections is the counter statement

FOUR-PART FORM (A B C A): typical pop music

A section, contrasting B section, C section is normally completely different (bridge), back to the A section

STROPHIC: through composed

most hymns are strophic. No change, but music repeats with different sets of words

MUSICAL FORM

Phrase
A short, musical idea. Like a sentence in English.

Form and Structure

Section
A few phrases put together. Like a paragraph in English.

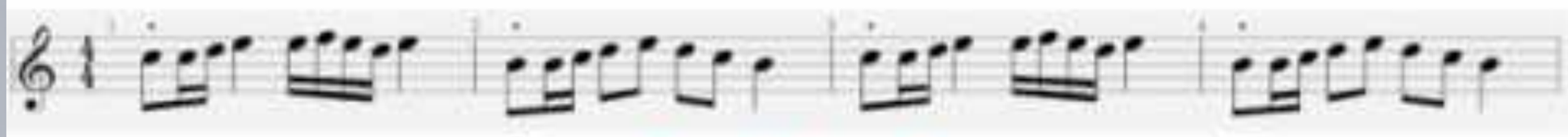
Form and **Structure** are used to describe the **order** of these sections.

Like this:

Binary Form

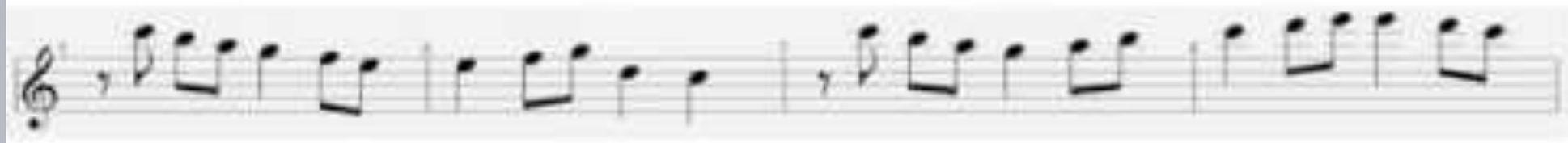
Section A =

Phrase 1 + Phrase 2 + Phrase 3 + Phrase 4



Section B =

Phrase 1 + Phrase 2 + Phrase 3 + Phrase 4



Ternary Form

MUSICAL STYLE:

We use the word “style” in reference to everything from clothing to cooking, cars to paintings. In music, style refers to a characteristic way of using melody, rhythm, tone color, dynamics, harmony, texture, & form. The particular way theres elements are combined can result in a total sound that is distinctive or unique. We speak of the musical style of an individual composer, a group of composers, a country, or a particular period in history. Compositions created in the same geographical area or around the same time are often similar in style, but individuals using the same musical vocabulary can create a personal manner of expression.

Musical styles change from one era in history to the next. These changes are continuous, & so any boundary line between one stylistic period & the next can be only an approximation. Though sudden turning points do occur in the history of music, even the most revolutionary new styles are usually foreshadowed in earlier compositions and few changes of style seep away the past entirely.