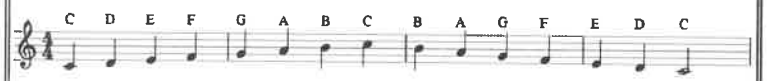Year 9 Knowledge Organiser Unit 12: Music Theory
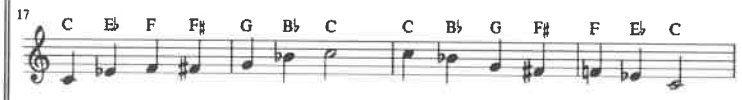
Scales
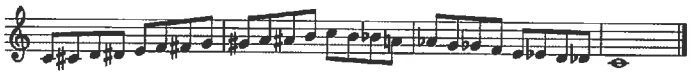


C major scale



C minor scale



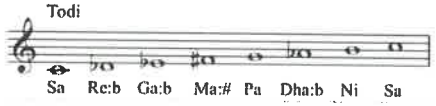
Blues scale on C



Chromatic scale

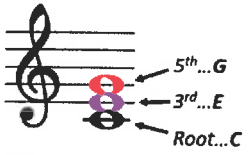


Whole-tone scale

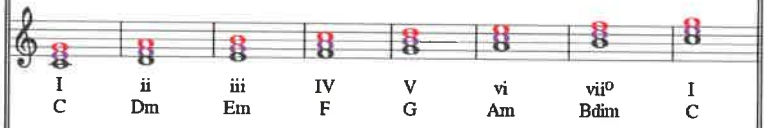


Indian music scale (rag)
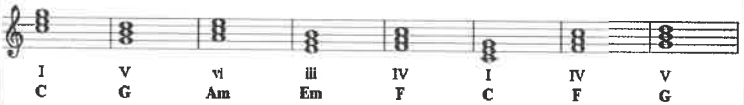
Chords



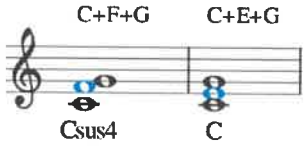
Chords in the key (scale) of C major



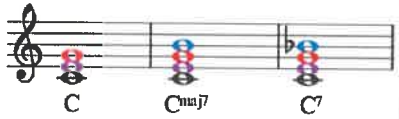
Chord sequence (Pachelbel's Canon)



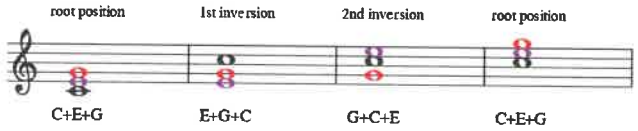
A '4-3' suspension



Chord extensions



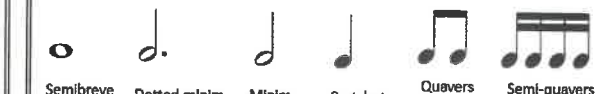
Chord Inversions



Arpeggiation



Note Values

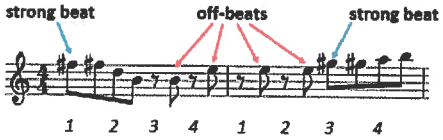


Time Signatures
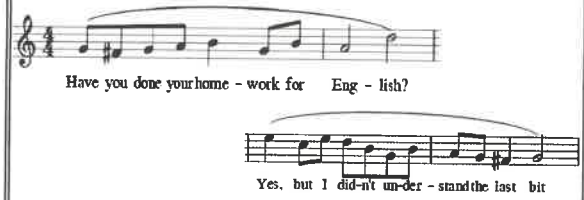


Phrases and Sequences

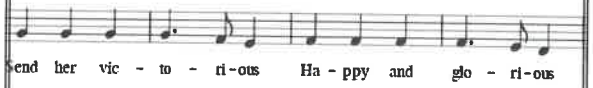
A syncopated phrase



Phrases (question and answer)



2-bar melodic sequence



Year 9 Music Theory: Glossary of Terms

Pitch: how high or low a sound is (measured in *Hertz,* but note names are commonly used to refer to pitch)
Scale: a series of notes arranged in order of pitch
Major scale: a scale used in much Western music found (for example) by playing the white keys on a piano from middle C to C an octave higher; the major scale creates bright and happy music
Minor scale: the 3rd and 6th degrees of the major scale a flattened to create the minor. Often used for sad, emotional or moody music
Sharp: a note raised by a semitone eg. F# which is used in the G major scale
Flat: a note raised by a semitone eg. B♭ which is used in the F major scale
Blues scale: a modification of the minor scale featuring a flattened 7th: used extensively in rock and pop music
Chromatic scale: a scale which goes up in semitones
Whole-tone scale: a scale that goes up in whole-tones
Transposition: playing a scale or melody in a higher or lower key (starting on a different note)
Raga: scales used in Indian classical music
Triad: a 3-note chord comprising a root, a 3rd and a 5th
Chord extension: adding a 7th or 9th (for example) to a triad
Suspension / resolution: the 3rd of the triad is raised to a 4th above the root, then drops back into place
Chord inversions: the notes in a triad a rearranged so that the lowest note is the 3rd or 5th instead of the root
Arpeggiation: broken chords; spreading out the notes of a chord instead of playing them simultaneously
Time signature: numbers which indicate the meter of a piece of music: how many beats there are in each bar
Syncopation: the effect of emphasising off-beats or weak beats in a rhythm
Phrase: a section of a melody, often 2 bars or 4 bars long. One line of a song is usually one phrase
Question / answer phrases: the way that one phrase follows another in a manner of a question and an answer
Phrase mark: a curved line that indicates the extent of a phrase in musical notation
Motown: an American record label that released great soul music in the 1960s and 70s
Sequence: a compositional device where a melodic phrase repeated either higher or lower
Motif: a short, recognisable musical idea
Riff / hook: a short musical phrase which is typically repeated, for example in the introduction to a song
Improvisation: when a performer makes the music up as they go along
Leitmotif: a musical phrase which represents a character, place or idea in a story

Year 9 Knowledge Organiser Unit 13: Music Skills Development I: Ensembles

Ensemble Skills – Top Tips

- *Know how to play or sing your own part*
- *Listen to the other parts when you play*
- *Ensure you can see the others as well as possible*
- *Count in to set the tempo*
- *Stay in time with others and keep the tempo steady*
- *Use counting skills for tricky rhythms and rests*
- *Show respect to all members of the group*
- *Listen to the ideas of others*
- *Contribute your own ideas*
- *Be willing to compromise*
- *Work together…don't 'twiddle' or sit there playing separately*
- *Take responsibility for your part*
- *Don't waste time. You can't rehearse too much.*
- *Keep trying to improve.*

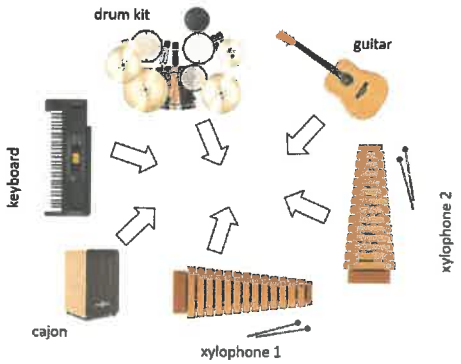
Count in to start

1, 2, 3, 4…

This sets the tempo and ensures everyone begins together

Classroom Ensemble

Set up so the musicians can see each other



Dynamic levels

	fff	
very loud	*ff*	fortissimo
loud	*f*	forte
medium loud	*mf*	mezzoforte
medium soft	*mp*	mezzopiano
soft	*p*	piano
very soft	*pp*	pianissimo
	ppp	

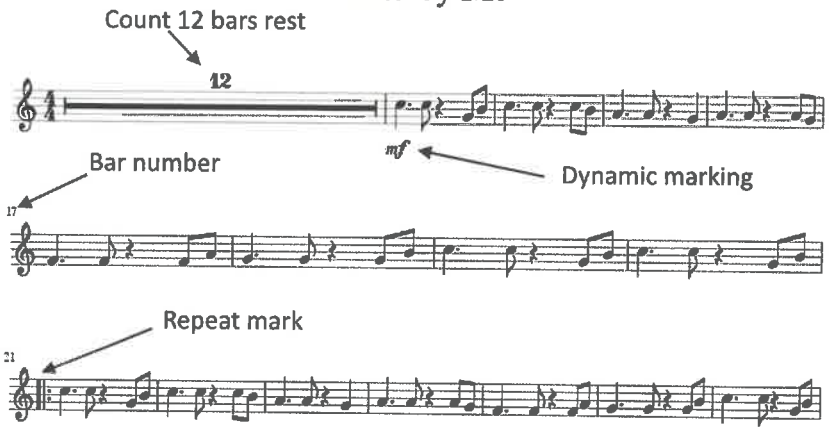
Glossary of Terms

Ensemble: a group of two or more musicians playing together
Solo: one musician performing alone
Duet: 2 musicians performing together, or a piece for 2 musicians
Trio: a group of 3 musicians performing together…
Quartet: a group of 4 musicians…
Quintet: a group of 5 musicians…
Sextet: a group of 6 musicians…
Septet: a group of 7 musicians…
Octet: a group of 8 musicians…
Tutti: all playing / singing together
Unison: all play / sing exactly the same tune together
Accompaniment: the part which make up the 'backing' for a song or melody eg. chords/bass line
Rehearsal: the process of working together to prepare or improve a performance
Follow: listening to another part in the group in order to stay in time with them
Balance: the application of dynamics to different parts in an ensemble depending on their role.

Understanding your part
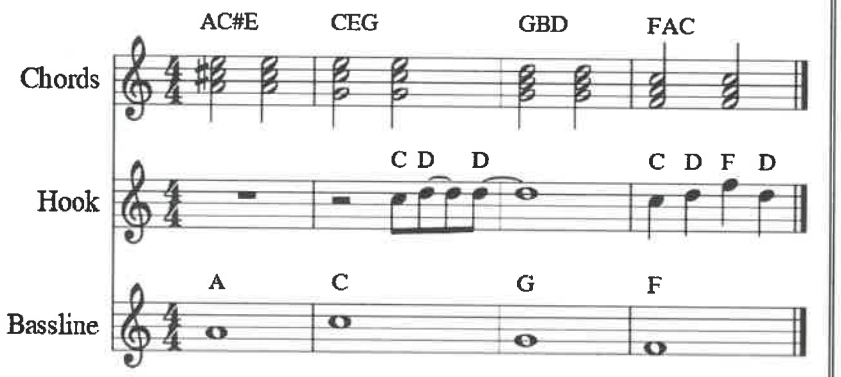
Xylophone

Stand by Me



Year 9 Knowledge Organiser Unit 14: Musical Skills Development II: Sequencing

Music for Assessment task



Important features

Metronome



Automation



Panning

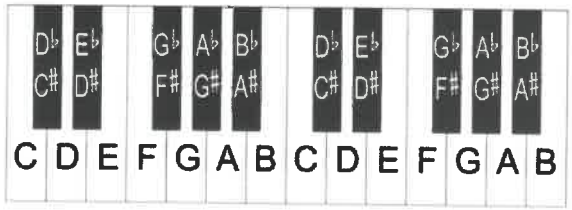


Glossary of Terms

Sequencing: the programming, arranging and performing of musical notes using a machine.
Track: the recording of a single instrument.
Logic Pro X: software for sequencing music.
Tempo: the speed of the music.
Panning: the distribution of sound in each ear.
Texture: the layers of instruments playing in a section or piece of music.
Metronome: A click track set at a constant speed to enable the musician to play in time.
Sound Library: the library of different instrument sounds in Logic Pro X.
Note Repeat: allows a single note to be held and repeated at a set speed.
Quantize: to move imprecise notes and make them precisely in time.
Automation: changing the volume of a track during playback.
Mute: To stop any sound from being heard when being played back.
Loop: a repeat of a section of music.

Notes on the keyboard

Lower Pitch — Higher Pitch



Year 9 Knowledge Organiser Unit 15: Musical Skills Development III: Solo Performance

Do's and Don'ts of practicing as a soloist

- **Do** make sure your hands are in the right place on the keyboard before you start to play.
- **Do** use the correct fingers for each note to make the piece easier to play. When you do this over time, it will help your brain remember patterns within the piece of music.
- **Do** play it slowly when practicing a section for the first time. The slower you play, the easier it will be to get it right.
- **Do** practice with separate hands first, then once you are confident with each component, put both hands together SLOWLY.
- **Don't** try to play through the whole thing over and over again, stopping every time you make a mistake – you will get really good at the first bit and be terrible by the end!
- **Do** pick small sections to work on. if there is a particular part in a section, just work on that, then start to stitch each section together once you are confident with each part.
- **Do** always aim for fluency.
- **Don't** give up if you cant play it straight away! Many pieces of music take hours of practice, even for professionals.

Glossary of Terms

Pitch: how high or low a note is

Melody: the tune of the music

Accompaniment: the part which make up the 'backing' for a song or melody eg. chords/bass line

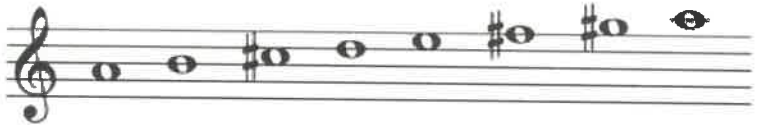
Tempo: the speed of the music

Accidental: any note which is sharp or flat (black notes)
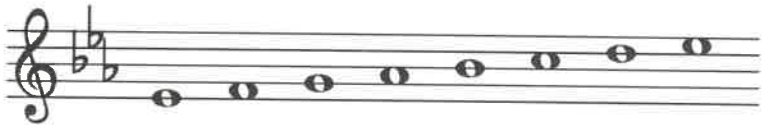
Scale: a series of notes arranged in order of pitch

Scales

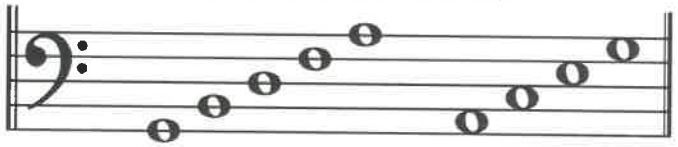
A Major scale



Eb Major scale



Bass clef staff notes



Hand Positions

