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Music 101

Elements of Sound


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- Nickel Creek – *The House of Tom Bombadil*




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- Samuel Barber, *Adagio for strings*



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- George Crumb, *Black Angels*, *Thirteen Images from the Dark Land*, *Image 4: Devil-Music*



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- Japanese Kabuki excerpt



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What is Music?

- Music is sound organized in time.

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Melody

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MELODY

- A series of notes which add up to form a recognizable whole. Or...
- A coherent succession of single pitches

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Some aspects of melody

- **range** – distance between the highest and lowest notes of a melody
- **shape**
 - static
 - arch
 - rising/falling line
 - wave
- **motion** – how the melody moves from one note to the next
 - Conjunct – moves in stepwise fashion
 - Disjunct – moves mostly by leaps
- **articulation**
 - staccato/legato

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Elements of melodic structure

- **Motive** – smallest recognizable unit of a melody
- **Phrase** – a larger structure, analogous to a sentence in spoken language
- **Cadence** – a resting point at the end of a phrase
 - full cadence
 - half cadence
- rhyme scheme

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Rhythm

- **Rhythm** - The flow of music through time

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- **beat** - regular pulse dividing music into equal parts
- **tempo** - the speed of the beat

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- verbal tempo descriptions
 - grave - solemn - very slow
 - largo - broad - very slow
 - adagio - quite slow
 - andante - walking pace
 - moderato - moderately
 - allegro - fast
 - vivace - lively
 - presto - very fast
- modifying words:
 - molto - more
 - meno - less
 - poco - a little
 - non troppo - not too much

- **modifying word:**
 - *molto* - more
 - *meno* - less
 - *poco* - a little
 - *subito* - all the sudden

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- **Words for changing tempo**
 - *accelerando* - getting gradually faster
 - *ritardando* - getting gradually slower
 - *a tempo* - back to the original tempo

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- **Meter** - The organization of beats into distinguishable patterns

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- **measure** - unit separated by barlines that contain a specific number of beats
- **time signature** - two numbers at the beginning of a piece of music, one on top of the other, that tell how many beats in each measure and what kind of note equals one beat
 - triple
 - half
 - quadruple
- **compound meters**
- **additive meters**
- **non-metric**
- **polymetric** - 2 meters at once
- **shifting meters** - meters change many times within a piece

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- **syncopation** - accent on an unexpected beat
- **polyrhythm** - two or more concurrent divisions of the same beat
