

# Keywords

**a capella**

Without accompaniment from musical instruments, ie voices only.

**appraising**

Listening carefully.

**arrangement**

How voices and instruments are used in a song; where they occur within the song.

**back beat**

Beats 2 and 4 in a drum-line or if we are clapping along with the music.

**backing**

The accompaniment to a song.

**balance**

The level of volume at which players sing or play; if the balance is good then everyone can be heard.

**ballad**

A gentle love song.

**band**

Playing/singing/performing together.

**bridge/middle 8**

Contrasting section which leads back to main material.

**chord**

More than one note played at the same time.

**chorus**

A repeated section in a song which gives the main message.

**coda**

Short section which brings the song or piece to an end.

**cover**

A version of a song performed by someone other than the original artist that might sound a bit – or very – different.

**composing**

Creating and developing musical ideas and 'fixing' these.

**crossover**

Can be a mixture of different styles which introduces new music to different audiences.

**decks**

Equipment used by DJs, MCs and Rappers to mix sounds from different records and to make effects like scratching. First used in the late 1970s.

**drumloops**

A loop is a sequence of sounds/music that is recorded, maybe sampled, and reproduced digitally or electronically.

**dynamics**

How loud or quiet the music is.

**ending**

Short section which brings the song or piece to an end.

**ensemble**

A French word used to describe playing/singing/performing together.

**groove**

The rhythmic part of the music that makes you want to move and dance.

**harmony**

Different notes sung or played at the same time, to produce chords.

**hook**

A term used in pop music to describe a short catchy phrase or riff that we can't stop singing; the bit that 'hooks' us in; the main musical idea from a song that we remember.

**improvise**

To make up a tune and play it on the spot; there is an assumption that it can never be recreated.

**interlude**

A passage of music played between the main themes

**introduction**

Music heard at the beginning of a song or piece of music bridge; a section of music that can take us from a verse to a chorus, just as a bridge over a river takes us from one place to another.

**lyrics**

The words of a song.

**melody**

Another name for a tune.

**melodic**

Melody or tune.

**notation**

Ways to visually represent music.

**offbeat**

If a piece of music has 4 beats in a bar ie 1 2 3 4, to clap on the offbeat you would clap on beats 2 and 4 not 1 and 3.

**original**

The first ever version of a song.

**ostinato**

A short repeated pattern.

**outro**

Short section which brings the song or piece to an end.

**pentatonic scale**

A fixed five-note pattern eg the five black keys on a piano.

**performing**

Singing and playing instruments.

**phrase**

A musical sentence.

**pitch**

The range of high and low sounds.

**pre-chorus**

A short section in a song, before the chorus.

**pulse/beat**

The heartbeat or steady beat of a song/piece of music.

**recurring theme**

A tune that repeats again and again in a piece of music.

**rhythm**

The combination of long and short sounds to make patterns.

**riff**

A short repeated phrase, often played on a lead instrument such as guitar, piano or saxophone.

**roots reggae**

Music that deals with social and racial issues and brings in elements of Rastafari.

**sampling**

Record a sample of music, a small section, and re use it in another piece of music or song. Used frequently in hip hop and other pop music.

**secular**

Non religious

**solo**

An Italian word used to describe playing/singing/performing on our own.

**structure/form/shape**

How the sections (verses and choruses etc) of a song are ordered to make the whole piece.

**style**

The type of music eg blues or rock.

**style indicators**

Identifiers that show us the genre of the music.

**syncopation**

Music with lots of rhythmic variety, often quite difficult. The strong beats occur in unexpected places.

**tag**

(Usually) a short ending, tagged on to the main part of the song.

**tempo**

An Italian word used to describe how fast/slow the music goes.

**texture**

Layers of sound in music.

**timbre**

The quality and character of the sound.

**urban contemporary**

Modern music that uses elements of soul, hip hop, funk, jazz, r&b that appeals to young people.

**verse**

A section in a song which has the same tune but different words.