



Sebright Primary – Year 3/4 Music Vocabulary List

Black - Vocabulary from the previous key stage/s

Red - New vocabulary for this key stage

BASE TERM	DEFINITION & EXTENDED VOCABULARY
Tuned Instruments	An instrument that plays different notes eg a piano or xylophone
Untuned Instruments	An instrument that only plays one note, eg a drum or shaker
Expressive	Add meaning to the music
Chant	Speaking in a rhythm, or a sing-song way
Rhyme	Words that sound the same
Pulse	The beat of the music
Dynamics	How loud the music is Forte = loud Piano - soft Crescendo = gets louder Diminuendo = gets quieter
Tempo	How fast the music is Allegro = fast Andante = medium Adagio = slow Accelerando = gets faster Rallentando = slows down
Rhythm	The pattern of notes around a beat Crotchet = 1 beat Minim = 2 beats Semibreve = 4 beats
Musical	Turning the notes into a piece of music, not playing like a robot!
Structure	How the music is put together Ostinato = a repeated pattern Contrast = something new or different Call & Response = a soloist performs their part and then the ensemble repeats it, or makes a new answer Introduction = the beginning of the piece Outro = the ending of a piece Verse = Part of a song that tells a story and has different lyrics on each repeat Chorus = Part of a song that repeats exactly, carrying the main message of a song
Melody	The tune Low pitch = low sounds High pitch = high sounds Repetition = copying an idea again



	Contrast = a new idea Pentatonic = a melody with 5 notes
Accurate	Playing the correct pitches and rhythms
Solo	Playing on your own
Ensemble	Playing in a group Orchestra = woodwind, brass, strings and percussion Choir = group of singers Solo = 1 performers Duet = 2 performers Trio = 3 performers
Tradition	Ideas and beliefs that are passed down through families
Composer	Someone who creates music
Notation	Symbols used to write music down