

Max’s Musical Elements Word Mat

Learning objective: To define and identify the key musical elements required for composition and performance in Year 4.

Key Vocabulary

Use this vocabulary mat to help you describe the sounds you hear. The terms are categorised by the 'Dimensions of Music' to help you build your own musical masterpieces.

Pulse The steady, underlying heartbeat of th...	Rhythm The pattern of short and long notes ...	Tempo The speed of the music (e.g., fast, sl...
Pitch How high or low a sound is.	Dynamics How loud or quiet the music is.	Texture The number of layers of sound occu...
Timbre The unique 'colour' or quality of a so...	Duration How long a single note or sound la...	Ostinato A short, repeated musical pattern.
Unison When everyone sings or plays the e...	Staccato A style of playing notes in a short, ...	Legato A style of playing notes smoothly and..
Crescendo When the music gradually gets l...	Diminuendo When the music gradually gets...	Melody The main tune of the piece, often cr...
Explain why a c...	Compare and con...	Justify your ans... If you were writing a son...
What might happ...	If you bought a ti...	Evaluate the diffe...