

Class 4 Music: The Composer's Toolkit

Learning objective: To understand and use musical terminology to describe the work and techniques of a composer.

Key Vocabulary

Use this vocabulary that to help you analyse pieces of music. The words are grouped into categories to help you structure your thoughts when composing your own melodies or listening to famous works.

Composer A person who writes music.	Notation The system of written symbols use...	Score The complete written music for every ...
Tempo The speed of the music (e.g., fast or ...	Dynamics How loud or quiet the music is.	Pitch How high or low a note sounds.
Rhythm The pattern of long and short sound...	Timbre The unique 'colour' or quality of a so...	Melody The main tune of a piece of music.
Harmony Notes played together to create c...	Ostinato A short, repeated musical pattern.	Staccato Notes that are played short and de...
Legato Notes that are played smoothly and ...	Crescendo A gradual increase in volume.	Diminuendo A gradual decrease in volume.
Structure How the different sections of a pie...	Ensemble A group of musicians performing ...	Explain why a c...
Compare and con...	If you were comp...	Justify your ans... Is a 'score' essential for ...
What might happ...	Evaluate the role ...	