



# MUSIC

## GLOSSARY OF KEYWORDS



<b>A Capella</b>	Without accompaniment from musical instruments, i.e. voices only.
<b>Appraising</b>	Listening carefully.
<b>Arrangement</b>	How voices and instruments are used in a song; where they occur within the song.
<b>Back Beat</b>	Beats 2 and 4 in a drum-line or if we are clapping along with the music.
<b>Backing</b>	The accompaniment to a song.
<b>Balance</b>	The level of volume at which players sing or play; if the balance is good then everyone can be heard.
<b>Ballad</b>	A gentle love song.
<b>Band</b>	Playing/singing/performing together.
<b>Bridge/Middle 8</b>	Contrasting section, which leads back to main material.
<b>Chord</b>	More than one note played at the same time.
<b>Chorus</b>	A repeated section in a song, which gives the main message.
<b>Coda</b>	Short section, which brings the song or piece to an end.
<b>Cover</b>	A version of a song performed by someone other than the original artist that might sound a bit or very different.
<b>Composing</b>	Creating and developing musical ideas and 'fixing' these.
<b>Crossover</b>	Can be a mixture of different styles, which introduces new music to different audiences.
<b>Decks</b>	Equipment used by DJs, MCs and Rappers to mix sounds from different record and to make effects like scratching. First used in the late 1970s.
<b>Drum Loops</b>	A loop is a sequence of sounds/music that is recorded, maybe sampled, and reproduced digitally or electronically.
<b>Dynamics</b>	How loud or quiet the music is.
<b>Ending</b>	Short section which brings the song or piece to an end.
<b>Ensemble</b>	A French word used to describe playing/singing/performing together.
<b>Groove</b>	The rhythmic part of the music that makes you want to move and dance.
<b>Harmony</b>	Different notes sung or played at the same time, to produce chords.
<b>Hook</b>	A term used in pop music to describe a short catchy phrase or riff that we can not stop singing; the bit that 'hooks' us in; the main musical idea from a song that we remember.
<b>Improvise</b>	To make up a tune and play it on the spot; there is an assumption that it can never be recreated.

<b>Interlude</b>	A passage of music played between the main themes.
<b>Introduction</b>	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.
<b>Lyrics</b>	The words of a song.
<b>Melody</b>	Another name for a tune.
<b>Melodic</b>	Melody or tune.
<b>Notation</b>	Ways to visually represent music.
<b>Offbeat</b>	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.
<b>Original</b>	The first ever version of a song.
<b>Ostinato</b>	A short repeated pattern.
<b>Outro</b>	Short section which brings the song or piece to an end.
<b>Pentatonic Scale</b>	A fixed five-note pattern e.g. the five black keys on a piano.
<b>Performing</b>	Singing and playing instruments.
<b>Phrase</b>	A musical sentence.
<b>Pitch</b>	The range of high and low sounds.
<b>Pre-Chorus</b>	A short section in a song, before the chorus.
<b>Pulse/Beat</b>	The heartbeat or steady beat of a song/piece of music.
<b>Recurring theme</b>	A tune that repeats again and again in a piece of music.
<b>Rhythm</b>	The combination of long and short sounds to make patterns.
<b>Riff</b>	A short repeated phrase often played on a lead instrument such as guitar, piano or saxophone.
<b>Roots Reggae</b>	Music that deals with social and racial issues and brings in elements of Rastafari.
<b>Sampling</b>	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.
<b>Secular</b>	Non-religious
<b>Solo</b>	An Italian word used to describe playing/singing/performing on our own.
<b>Structure/form/shape</b>	How the sections (verses and choruses etc.) of a song are ordered to make the whole piece.
<b>Style</b>	The type of music e.g. blues or rock.
<b>Style indicators</b>	Identifiers that show us the genre of the music.
<b>Syncopation</b>	Music with lots of rhythmic variety, often quite difficult. The strong beats occur in unexpected places.
<b>Tag</b>	(Usually) a short ending, tagged on to the main part of the song.

<b>Tempo</b>	An Italian word used to describe how fast/slow the music goes.
<b>Texture</b>	Layers of sound in music.
<b>Timbre</b>	The quality and character of the sound.
<b>Urban Contemporary</b>	Modern music that uses elements of soul, hip-hop, funk, jazz, r&b that appeals to young people.
<b>Verse</b>	A section in a song, which has the same tune but different words.