THE ELEMENTS OF MUSIC – Rhythm, Melody, Harmony, & Timbre

Composer uses . . . TONE and RHYTHM in designing STRUCTURE to CONVEY

**Melodic Line** - a meaningful succession of tones of various levels of pitch
- up/down
- repeated
- skips, leaps, or jumps

Tones have letter names: ABCDEFG
Intervals = distance between tones
Scales = stepwise rising or descending pattern of pitches
- major scales (7-note pattern)
- minor scales (7-note pattern)
- pentatonic scales (5 note pattern)

**Pitch** = high or low sound
Also called register
Range = wide or narrow

**Color**
Tone Quality – also known as timbre
Instruments
- strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion
- aerophones, idiophones, membranophones
- chordophones, electrophones
- Voice
  - soprano, alto, tenor, bass

**TEXTURE**
Harmony = 2 or more tones at the same time
- monophonic = one melody
- homophonic = melody with chords
- polyphonic – many melodies at the same time

**Dynamics** (levels of volume)
- “piano” = soft
- mezzoforte = moderately loud
- forte = loud
- fortissimo = very loud

**Pulse** = the steady beat
**Tempo** = the speed of the pulse
Tempo also means time in the Italian language

**Notes** = musical sounds notated
**Rests** = notated silences

**NOTE RHYTHM** – relative duration
- long/short
- even/uneven
- syncopation = accents in unexpected places

**RHYTHMIC NOTATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rest</th>
<th># of Beats</th>
<th># of Notes Per note to 4 beats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>whole note</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>one</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>half note</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>two</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quarter note</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>four</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eighth note</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>eight</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sixteenth note</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>sixteen</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMMON TEMPO INDICATIONS**
- andante = moderately slow; “walking” tempo
- allegro = fast; cheerful
- presto = very fast

**METER** – organization of pulse into groups of:
- 2’s = duple meter
- 3’s = triple meter
- 4’s = quadruple meter

**Rhythm units = measures**

**PHRASE**
Musical sentence
Motive = a melodic Fragment

**FORM**
AB (binary)
ABA (ternary)
A, A1, A2, A3 (variation)
ABACA (rondo)

**COMPOSITIONAL DEVICES**
sequence
fragmentation
inversion
diminution
augmentation
imitation
canon
fugue

Music has the power to move our emotions