

Curso
2014-15

Apuntes y actividades de Música. 1º E.S.O. Apéndice bilingüe

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Curso y grupo:

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UNIT 1.- QUALITIES OF SOUND

We hear sounds all the time. All sounds are produced by the **vibration** of an object. The vibration makes the air around the object vibrate too. These air vibrations are called **sound waves**. Sound waves travel outwards and bring the sound to our ears. Our ears send a message to our brain and we hear the sound.

Sound can travel through many different kinds of matter, including **solids, liquids** and **gases**. It travels at about **340 meters per second** through air, but it goes faster through liquids and even faster through solids such as iron.

Sound differs from noise in the way the waves are organized: sound waves are regular and tidy, while noise waves are irregular and untidy.

Sound has four qualities:

- *Pitch*: how high or low is a sound; depends on frequency (Hz)
- *Duration*: how long or short is a sound
- *Intensity*: how loud or soft is a sound (dB)
- *Timbre*: the specific kind of sound; depends on harmonics

Music is a kind of language. It serves to express feelings and emotions without words. Like other languages, music can be written. It uses a specific code that every musician should understand. Different symbols are used to represent the pitch, duration, and dynamics of the sounds. This set of signs and symbols is called **music notation** or **musical notation**.

The written representation of a musical work is called **score**.

UNIT 2.- WRITING MUSIC: PITCH

Staff, clefs and the names of the notes

Music is written on five horizontal parallel lines called the **staff** (or **stave**, plural for both is **staves**). The five lines create four spaces between them.



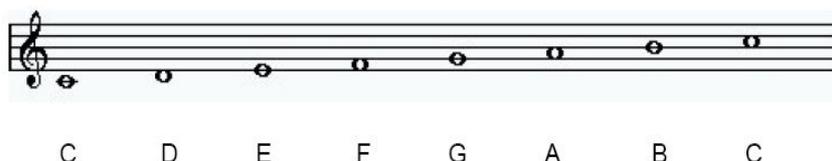
At the beginning of each staff, we write a **clef**. The clef is a sign that gives the notes their names and tells us which range of sounds should be played. There are two main kinds of clefs:

Treble Clef		a higher range of notes
Bass Clef		a lower range of notes

The clef you will see on your music depends on what instrument you play. Most instruments using the bass clef usually have a lower pitch (sound) and regularly play low notes. If they were to use the treble clef the notes would appear so far below the staff and it would be hard to read.

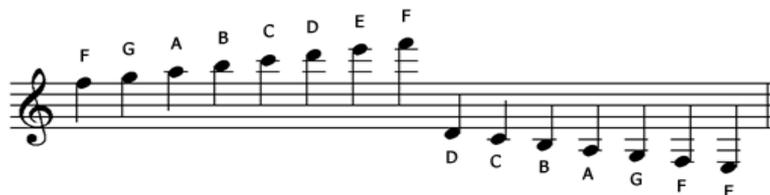
We use notes to write down music. Notes have two main features: pitch and duration. In music, the sound of a note is called its pitch. Where a note lives on the staff tells you its pitch and also its name.

In English, notes are named after letters of the alphabet, from A to G. Here are the names of the notes for treble clef:



C D E F G A B C

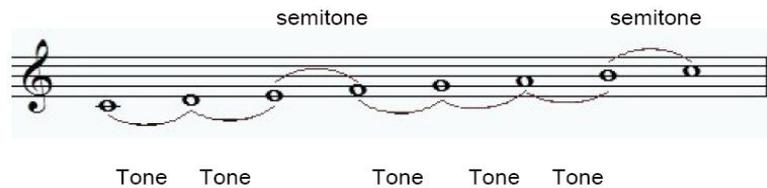
To represent notes that being too high or low cannot be written inside the staff, we use **ledger lines**, which are short lines parallel and equidistant to the staff, placed above or below it.



Step and half step.

The distance between two pitches is called the interval between them. In Western music, the smallest interval from one note to another is called a half step (also called half tone or semitone). The whole step (also called tone or whole tone) is composed of two half steps.

Natural notes have the following sequence of whole and half steps:



That's why the position of the white and black keys on the piano is as it follows:

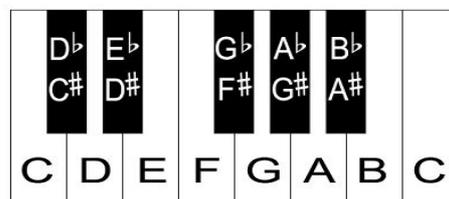


Accidentals and key signature.

Accidentals are symbols that modify the pitch. The sharp (#) symbol raises a note by a half-step, while the flat (b) symbol lowers the note, also by a halfstep. The becuadro cancels the effect of the sharp or the flat.

Symbol	Name	Effect
#	Sharp	Play the note 1/2 step up
b	Flat	Play the note 1/2 step down
♮	Becuadro (or natural sign)	Play the note normally; pay no attention to the key signature

So this is the name of the black keys on the piano keyboard:



An accidental lasts for one bar only and is cancelled at the beginning of the next bar. Also, these symbols can appear at the beginning of each line of music affecting the whole line. This is called the **key signature**.

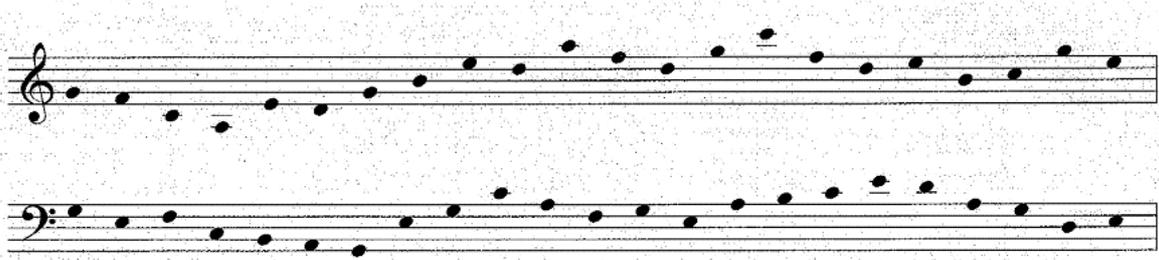


⇒ **ACTIVITIES**

1) What is the Spanish word for the following musical words in English?

- Staff:
- Clef:
- Score:
- Ledger lines:
- Step and half step:

2) Name the following notes (letter names):



3) Identify the correct notes on the piano to help Mighty Music Man deliver the piano to the new owner.

- http://www.musictechteacher.com/music_quizzes/quiz_mighty_music_man001.htm
- http://www.musictechteacher.com/music_quizzes/quiz_mighty_music_man002.htm

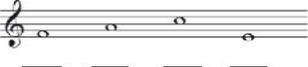
1. Work in groups of four. Each student will read one definition, find the symbol in the score below and label it. Tell the rest of your group what your symbol is used for. Do you know the names for these symbols in Spanish?



- 1. **Staff:** music is written on it. It consist of five lines and four spaces between the lines
- 2. **Treble clef:** it is placed at the beginning of every musical line
- 3. **Notes:** symbols to represent the different musical sounds
- 4. **Ledger lines:** short lines above or below the standard five lines to give more information



6. Complete the following story. First, write the names of the notes to form words. Then, listen to your teacher/assistant reading the story and fill in the gaps.

John was walking when he saw a  

looking at him. It was a baby. He looked lost. "I wonder what

  he is?" thought John. The baby started to cry.

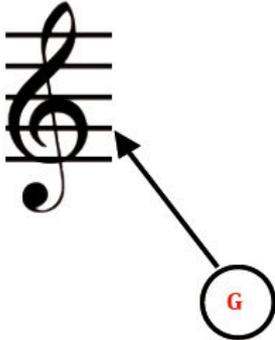
"Should I  him? Then, John saw a woman. She was

 calling"   John was so happy because the baby was not lost any more.

7. Listen and fill in the gaps:



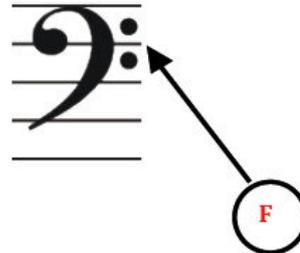
Notes higher up the have a pitch. Notes lower have a pitch. As there are only nine positions within the staff to write, other symbols are used to show how high or the sounds are. Clefs are used for this purpose. Notes on the staff sit differently for each



The treble clef is used for sounds, for example, the ones played by a, flute, or the right half of a

It is also known as G because it shows that G is placed on the line (where the curl of the clef starts).

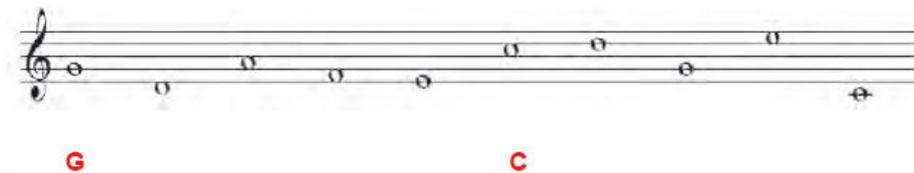
The bass is used for sounds, for example, the ones by the cello, tuba, or the left half of a piano. It is also known as F because it shows that is placed on the fourth (just between the two dots).



8. Pay attention to the clef and complete the notes in the following pieces of scores. You have some clues.



a)



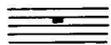
b)



UNIT 3.- WRITING MUSIC: DURATION

Note and rest values

The value of a note tells us for how long the note is to be played in relation to the pulse. We indicate it using several symbols:

British	Note Value Chart with Rests	American	Rests
semibreve	●	whole-note	 (also used for a one-bar rest whatever the metre)
minim		half-note	
crotchet		quarter-note	
quaver		eighth-note	
semiquaver		sixteenth-note	
demisemiquaver		thirty-second-note	

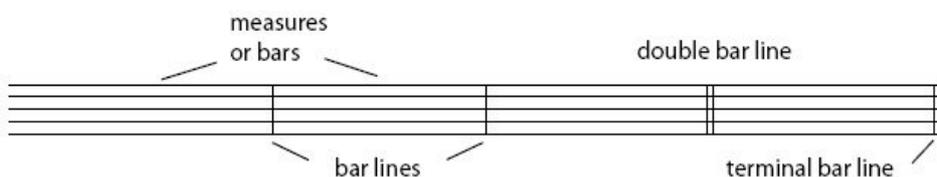
Also on the table below you can see the equivalent **rests** values lengths. A rest is a time when no notes are played. For each type of note you learned before there is a corresponding rest. For example, if a whole note is played for four beats, then a whole note rest is silent (no note played) for four beats.

Measure and time signature

Most music, like dance and oral poetry, has a basic unit of time that may be audible, the **pulse** or **beat**. Some beats may be stronger or weaker than others. We call the first ones **accents** (or **stressed beats**).

Depending of the order of accents, beats are organized in groups of two, three or four, called **measures** or **bars**. A measure (or bar) is such a pattern of a group of beats which begin with a stressed beat. This stressed beat is the natural **accent** of the measure and always falls on the first beat.

We use **bar lines** to separate bars. In a song, sections, such as verses or choruses, are ended by double bar lines, and the song itself is ended by a terminal (or final) bar line: one thin bar line followed by a thick one.



At the beginning of the piece, there is a time symbol called **time signature** (or **metre signature**). The time signature has two numbers:

- The top number tells us how many beats are in each measure
- The bottom number tells us which note value is used for a beat
I.e.: 4/4: four beats in a measure, each beat lasts a quarter note

There are various types of time signatures:

Simple time signatures.- They have a binary subdivision, because each beat can be divided into two parts. I. e., 2/4, 3/4, 4/4

Compound time signatures.- They have a ternary subdivision, because each beat can be divided into three parts. That's why a dotted note becomes the beat unit. I. e., 6/8, 9/8, 12/8

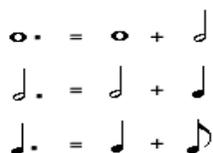
Mixed time signatures.- There is an irregular order of stressed beats in each measure, mixing binary and ternary metres in it. I. e.: 5/4, 7/4.

Tied and dotted notes

The **tie** is a curved line that joins two notes with the same pitch and adds the value of the second note to the first one.



The **dot** adds half of the value of the note to itself (and the same occurs to the rests). For example, a dotted half note gets 3 beats - value of a half note is 2, half of 2 is 1 so $2 + 1 = 3$.



Tempo

In music, the speed of the beat is called *tempo*. Beat is a steady constant pulse, like a clock ticking. Tempo can be slow or fast or in-between, and it can change during a song. Tempo influences on how music sounds and feels. The same piece of music will sound different if you play it slower or faster.

We use Italian musical terms to indicate how fast or slow the beat is. Most important Italian words are:

Largo: very slow

Adagio: slow

Andante: tranquil but not slow

Moderato: medium

Allegro: fast

Presto or *Vivace*: very fast

Another way to indicate tempo is using a **metronome**, that is a device used to indicate the tempo by sounding regular beats at adjustable speeds.

There are other terms that affect the tempo of a piece. They are:

accelerando (*accel.*) = speed up gradually

ritardando (*rit.*) or *rallentando* (*rall.*) = slow down gradually

⇒ **ACTIVITIES**

1) What is the Spanish word for the following musical words in English?

Measure or bar:

Bar line:

Dotted note:

Tie:

▶ Q14. Write out each sentence by choosing the correct ending from the options in the box.

- a) The top number tells you.....
- b) The bottom number tells you.....
- c) If the bottom number is 8.....
- d) If the bottom number is 2.....

.....how long each beat is.
.....how many beats in each bar.
..... the length of each beat in a bar is 1 minim.
..... the length of each beat in a bar is 1 quaver

UNIT 4.- WRITING MUSIC: INTENSITY

Dynamic markings.

Dynamics is how loud or soft the music is. It's the volume of the music.

We use Italian terms to indicate the volume of the sounds. They are called **dynamic markings**. In the score, you will find abbreviations of these terms. These are the most important ones:

- ***ff*** (fortissimo): very loud
- ***f*** (forte): loud
- ***mf*** (mezzoforte): medium loud
- ***mp*** (mezzopiano): medium soft
- ***p*** (piano): soft
- ***pp*** (pianissimo): very soft
- **cresc** (crescendo): getting louder
- **decresc** (decrescendo) or **dim** (diminuendo): getting softer

UNIT 5.- MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND THE HUMAN VOICE

In music, timbre (or tone colour) is the special sound that makes one instrument or voice different from another.

Human voice

Voice parts

Soprano	Highest female vocal range
Mezzosoprano	Medium female vocal range
Alto	Lowest female vocal range
Tenor	Highest male vocal range
Baritone	Medium male vocal range
Bass	Lowest male vocal range

Musical instruments

• **String instruments**

Instruments that make sounds by vibrating the string in one of the following ways:

- Drawing a bow across them: bowed string instruments (violin, viola, cello, double bass)
- Plucking them: plucked string instruments (guitar, harp)
- Striking them: struck string instruments (piano)

• **Woodwind instruments**

A woodwind instrument is a musical instrument which produces sound when the player blows air against an edge or a thin piece of wood called a reed. Most of these instruments were originally made of wood, but some are now commonly made of other materials like metals or plastics.

- Across a mouthpiece: Flute, recorder
- Single reed instruments: clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone
- Double reed instruments: oboe, bassoon, contrabassoon, English horn

• **Brass instruments**

Instruments usually made of brass. They create sound from the vibration of the performer's lips buzzing into a cuplike mouthpiece. The main brass instruments are trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba.

• **Percussion instruments**

These are the most ancient instruments. They are used to make rhythm. There are two groups of percussion instruments:

- *Membranophones*.- Also known as the drum family. An instrument with a membrane (drum head) stretched across a form (drum body). The membrane is struck by a hand or with a stick. For ex., tambourine, snare drum, bass drum, bongos, congas.
- *Idiophones*.- Make sounds by striking rubbing, shaking, or rattling the materials they are made of. For ex., xylophone, triangle, cymbals, chimes, tec.

⇒ **ACTIVITIES**

1) Music picture vocabulary:

http://www.eflnet.com/vocab/music_vocabulary.php

2) Young guide game:

<http://listeningadventures.carnegiehall.org/ypgto/game.aspx>

3) Instruments of the orchestra: listen to the video and then fill in the gaps:

First of all, what is an orchestra? An orchestra is a _____ ensemble of instruments that _____. There can be between _____ people playing at any one time.

The orchestra is divided up into _____ families. Today, we will look at each of these families and instruments that belong in each of these groups. The first family is the _____ family. These instruments are made with a _____. Air is going into the tube and _____ produce the _____ sounds. Instruments in this family include piccolo, _____, clarinet, _____, the bassoon, _____, and the contrabassoon.

The second family is the _____ family. These instruments have strings and sounds produced when these strings are _____. Instruments in this family include the _____, the _____, the _____, and the _____.

The next group of instruments is known as the _____ family. These instruments are made of brass and slides and _____ produce the different notes. Instruments in this group include the _____, the _____, the _____, and the _____.

The fourth, and final, family of the orchestra is called the _____ family. These instruments have sounds that are produced when the instrument is _____ or _____. Instruments in this group include the _____, the _____, the bass drum, _____, the glockenspiel, and tubular _____.

Depending on the _____ the orchestra is playing sometimes they can have the _____ or the piano as _____ players.

UNIT 6.- ELEMENTS OF MUSIC

⇒ Work on the activities in this website:

<http://www.sfskids.org/classic/templates/home.asp?pageid=1>

Rhythm

Rhythm is made up of sounds and silences. These sounds and silences are put together to form patterns of sounds, which are repeated to create rhythm.

A rhythm has a steady **beat**, but it may also have many different kinds of beats. Some beats may be stronger or softer than others. We can distinguish two basic rhythms: binary (strong-soft) and ternary (strong-soft-soft).

Melody

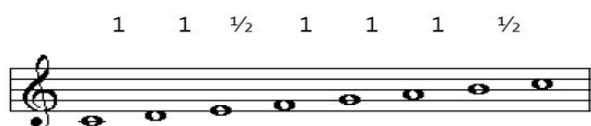
In music, a melody (also called **tune**) is a succession of sounds, normally with different pitches and durations, that express a musical idea. Melody is often the easiest part of music to remember, the part that you can sing or hum.

Melodies are structured in sections called phrases. Phrases are separated by cadences as linguistic phrases are separated by punctuation marks. A phrase will end with a weaker or stronger cadence depending on if it is an antecedent (when the musical idea is not finished) or consequent phrase (when the musical idea is finished).

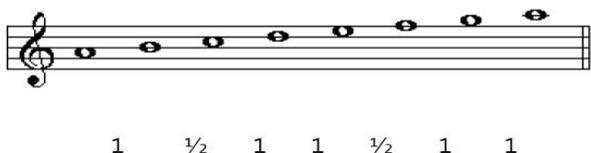
Scales

A scale is a series of notes arranged from low to high or vice versa. Most of the music written since the XVII century uses two types of scales: the major scale and the minor scale. What really defines the type of scale is not its first note but the intervals used to create it.

Major scales have the following sequence of whole and half steps:



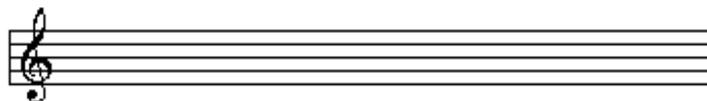
This is the natural minor scale. Can you see the differences?



We can build a major or a minor scale from any of the twelve notes in our tonal system.

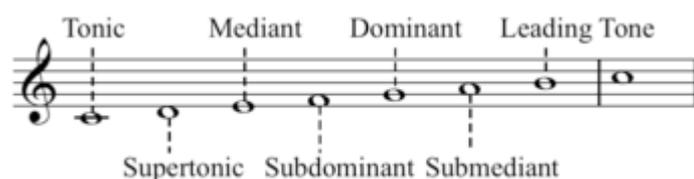
- Exercise.- Now, try to build the *D Major* scale. Follow these rules:
- Write out the notes of the D scale.
 - Count and see whether all intervals have the same tones and semitones as C major scale or not.

- c. Keep the intervals that have the same tones or semitones and modify those which don't in order to become the same.
- d. Remember that you can use *Sharps* to raise the pitch of a note by a semitone and *Flats* to get them lower by a semitone.



Tonality.

Tonality, or key, is the organization of all the notes of a piece of music in relation to a central note, or tonic. There are special names for the different notes on the scale:



- Tonic: is the first scale degree on the diatonic scale; it is the most important note in the piece.
- Dominant: is the fifth scale degree on the diatonic scale; it is next in importance to the tonic.
- Subdominant: is the fourth scale degree on the diatonic scale; it is the note immediately below the dominant, and the third one in importance.

In any tonality, there are two **modes**: *major* and *minor*, depending on the scale used.

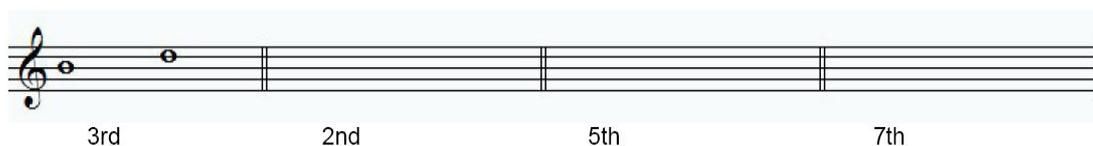
The act or process of changing from one key (tonic, or tonal center) to another is called **modulation**. This may or may not be accompanied by a change in **key signature**.

Intervals.

An interval is the distance in pitch between two notes. Intervals that are played together are harmonic. Intervals that are played separately are melodic, and these ones can be ascending or descending.

We obtain the name of the interval by counting the number of notes. The first and last note must be counted and you must know the order of the musical notes to be able to count the notes.

- Exercise.- Write out the intervals the intervals requested. Notice that you can start with any note you want



However, not all intervals of the same numerical classification are of the same size. That is why we need to specify the quality by finding the exact number of whole and half steps in the interval.

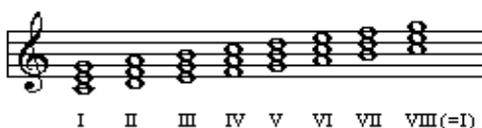
Harmony.

Harmony is the use of different pitches simultaneously and it's used basically for supporting the melody.

The main element in harmony is the **chord**: three or more notes sounded at the same time. The most basic kind of chords is the **triad**, that consists of three notes stacked in a specific order: a root (or bottom note and usually the letter name of the chord), a third, and a fifth. Look at the example: C major chord



You can form a triad on each degree of the scale:



We can feel different sorts of feelings when we hear a chord. Normally, we differentiate between consonant (relax) and dissonance (tension). Typically, a dissonant chord (chord with a tension) will become in a consonant chord. A good harmonization usually sounds pleasant to the ear when there is a balance between the consonant and dissonant sounds.

Texture.

In music, texture is the way the melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic materials are combined in a composition.

Musical texture is often described in regards to the density, or thickness, and refers to a number of different characteristics of music:

- the number of voices, or parts, playing
- whether each part is a melody or harmony part
- the relationship between these parts

The main element in texture is the melody. Notes in a melody occur one after another in a line of music. A melody represents a single musical voice no matter how many musicians perform it. It can be sung or played on an instrument.

In Western music, harmony often refers to the "vertical" aspects of music, distinguished from ideas of melodic line, or the "horizontal" aspect.

There are three basic types of texture:

- Monophony: Musical texture with a single melodic line.
- Polyphony: Musical texture composed of two or more melodic lines.
- Homophony: Musical texture composed of a melody and a harmonic accompaniment.

Monophonic texture

A melody performed alone is the simplest pattern of musical texture called "monophonic texture." Whenever a single melodic voice is present alone, the texture is monophonic. It doesn't matter if a

melody is performed by one or many musicians as long as the same notes are performed by everyone.

So monophony may be produced:

- By a single instrument
- Or by one singer
- Or a group of singers singing the same melody

Examples of monophonic music:

- Singing solo a capella
- Gregorian chant
- Unaccompanied instrumental sonatas

Polyphonic texture

Polyphonic means that there are two or more melodic lines that are sung or played at the same time (like a ‘conversation’).

Technique of writing several melodic lines that interact is called *counterpoint*.

Often uses imitation, which is when one voice or instrument presents a melodic idea, then another voice repeats it (not always exact imitation).

Examples of polyphonic music

- Rounds, fugues, and canons

Homophonic texture

When an accompaniment is used under a melody, we have the texture called “homophonic texture.” This is the most common texture in Western music.

In homophonic music, sometimes the rhythm and melody of the accompaniment are exactly the same as those of the melody; in other cases the accompaniment is in the background.

UNIT 7.- FORM IN MUSIC

Musical **form** is the structure of a musical composition. You can enjoy the music without analyzing its form, of course, but it helps to understand and perform it. The main units in a musical composition are the sections and we are going to mark them using blockletters (A, B, C...).

What does a composer need in order to make a composition?

- *Repetition*: you can repeat any element you want (notes, phrases, themes, dynamics...). Most of the popular songs use it.
- *Contrast*: you can mark the difference between two notes, phrases, themes, dynamics... A new theme appears.
- *Variation*: the melody varies during the composition. The first theme is usually a simple one and after this, the composer writes the variations he/she wants. This form is called the theme and variation form and it can be written like this: A A1 A2 A3 A4...

Musical structures

The most common musical structures are:

Strophic form

Strophic song in a song is when we use the same music for every verse. Many folk or popular songs are strophic in form.

A A A AA...

Binary form

A piece of music with two different sections, an A section and a B section, is a binary form. Section B contrasts with section A and the two themes sound different. Each section is often repeated.

A B or A A B B

Ternary form

In a ternary form, the A section returns after a contrasting B section. Section A contains the first composer's musical idea. Section B is a contrasting idea and the last section A can be the same as the first or can vary a bit.

A B A, ABA'

Rondo form

In this form, the main theme, A, keeps coming around or repeating after contrasting sections. These sections are called episodes. Section A is always alternated with a new one.

A B A C A...

Theme and variations

As in the strophic form, the "only" theme repeats indefinitely, but it varies each time. Each variation is a recognizable version of the main theme but with some differences.

A A¹ A² A³ A⁴...

⇒ **ACTIVITIES**

1) Translate the following terms and fill in the blanks using them.

- Logic of the form:
- Sections:
- Variation:
- Structure:
- Repetition:
- Structural units:
- Capital / Block letters:
- Contrast:

2) Fill in the gaps:

Musical form is the _____ of a musical composition. Musical form depends on the disposition of certain _____ successively in time. The main units in a musical composition are the _____ and we are going to mark them using _____ (A, B, C...). The relationship between the sections is the _____ and can be _____, _____ and _____, the three basic characteristics of musical form.