

Music cycle 1

Week 1

Musical Elements

Pulse : The beat of the music. Every piece of music has a 'heartbeat'. It doesn't need to be played by drums - you can 'feel' the beat.

Rhythm : Notes have different lengths, some long, some short. When we combine long and short sounds, it creates a pattern, which is a rhythm.

Tempo : Tempo means the speed of the music. Music can change tempo within a piece.

Dynamics : Dynamics means the volume of the music. Music can change dynamics within a piece.

Pitch : How **high** or **low** of a sound is.

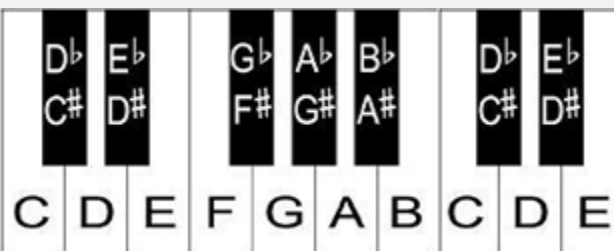
Structure : Music is divided into sections. The order of these sections creates a structure. Song structure includes Chorus, Verse, Instrumental etc.

Texture : A single part creates a thin sound. Adding more parts/layers creates a bigger sound. These layers can interact with each other.

Timbre : The unique quality of sound produced by different instruments. What makes instruments sound different.

Notes on the Keyboard

Please make sure you know the notes of the keyboard.



Week 3

Blues Key Words

Chord : 2 or more notes played at the same time.

Walking Bassline : specific to the blues, a bassline that goes up and down.

Improvisation : Making something up on the spot.

12 Bar Blues : Traditional style of music, using 3 chords (C, F, G) over a 12 bar cycle.

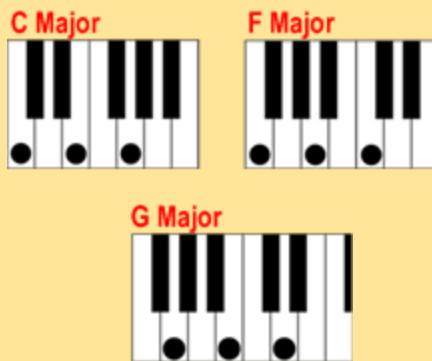
Song Structure : A typical pop song consists of verse-chorus-verse-chorus-middle 8-chorus-instrumental-chorus.

Accidental : The black notes on the keyboard. When written on the staff they are represented by the Sharp or Flat symbol.

Syncopation : When music is played on the off-beat (i.e. not played on the main beats of the bar). Syncopation creates a disjointed feel.

Accompaniment : This is the background music that supports the melody, and is usually made up of chords. In pop music the chords are often played by piano, guitar or ukulele.

Chords Used in Our Piece



Week 5

12 Bar Blues Chord Sequence

Below is the chord structure which we have already started to play.

C	C	C	C
F	F	C	C
G	F	C	C

Remember each single letter represents the following:

C = Chord of C Major = C E G played together at the same time.

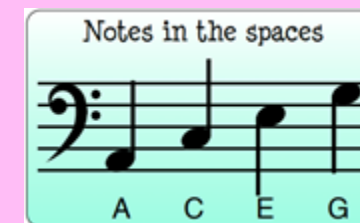
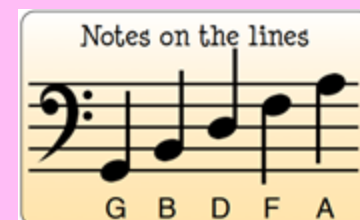
F = Chord of F Major = F A C played together at the same time.

G = Chord of G Major = G B D played together at the same time.

The Notes on the Bass Clef Staff

1). The notes on the Bass Clef Staff are usually low in pitch.

2). They would be played by the left hand on a keyboard.



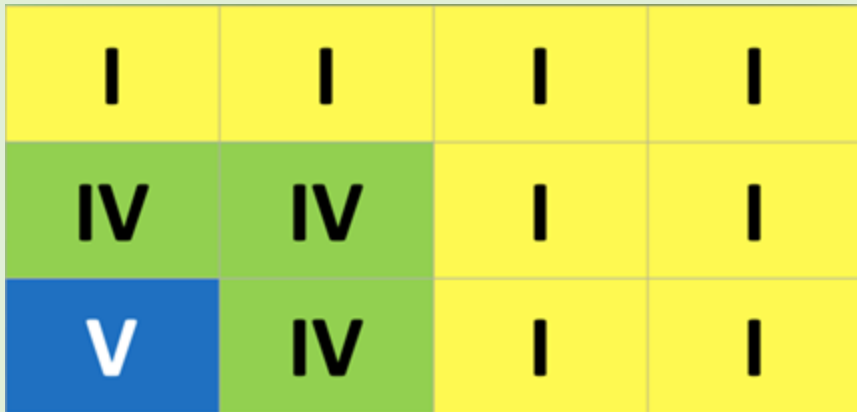
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Music

Week 7

Chords & Roman Numerals

The diagram below shows the 12 Bar Blues structure, however, the chord names have been replaced by Roman Numerals.



Changing the symbols doesn't mean you play the Blues differently. We use the Numerals to represent the chord.

For example:

I = C
IV = F
V = G

The numerals follow the pattern of a scale (A group of notes played in ascending or descending order). You can see the scale of C major below with the Roman Numerals added:



We also have special names for these Roman Numerals:

Tonic = chord I
Subdominant = chord IV
Dominant = chord V

Week 9

Common Blues Instruments

Strings : Double Bass or Bass Guitar often used to play the bass line. Guitar plays chords and melodies.

Woodwind : Saxophone sometimes used for melody.

Brass : Trumpet/Trombone often used for melody.

Percussion : Drum Kit.

Voices : Soprano/Alto/Tenor/Bass – any type of voice can sing the blues.

Keyboards : Piano is often used to play chords, bassline and/or melody, sometimes an organ is used.

Notes & Values

It is vital that as well as knowing the pitch names of notes you are also able to recognise the rhythmic names and values. Please revise all of the information below and commit it to memory.

American / German note names	British note names	Note symbols	Note value
Whole note	Semibreve		4 beats
Half note	Minim		2 beats
Quarter note	Crotchet		1 beat
Eighth note	Quaver		1/2 of a beat
Sixteenth note	Semiquaver		1/4 of a beat