# MELODY is...

a line of musical notes with varying pitches that is satisfying to listen to.



#### **Anacrusis:**

a note (or notes) that come before the first strong beat in a piece. Sometimes called the 'up-beat' or 'pick-up'.

## Motif:

a short melodic or rhythmic idea.

## Leitmotif:

a recurrent musical idea representing a person, place, feeling or idea.

## Countermelody:

a 2<sup>nd</sup> melody played at the same time as the main theme.

#### Pitch:

whether the musical notes are high, middle-sounding or low.

## Range:

the distance from the lowest sounding note to the highest sounding note in a piece of music.

#### **Ornaments:**

used to 'decorate' the music, e.g. trill, mordent, turn.

#### Chromatic:

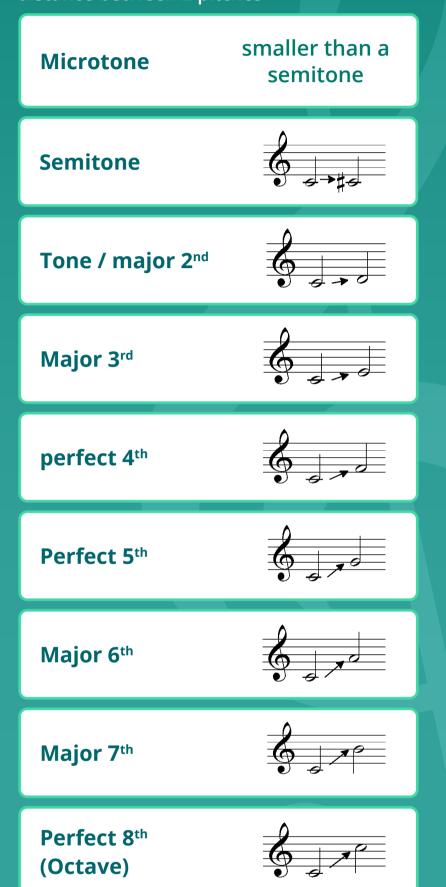
when the tune moves in semitones (like a chromatic scale).

#### **Pentatonic:**

a musical scale based on 5 notes.

#### Intervals:

distance between 2 pitches



# Question and answer phrases:

an initial idea (the questioning phrase) balanced by a 2<sup>nd</sup> idea (the answering phrase).

#### Theme:

the main musical idea in a piece of music.

### Sequence:

repetition of a musical idea at a higher or lower pitch.

#### **Imitation:**

when a musical idea is copied in another part.

## Repetition:

when musical ideas are repeated.

#### Contrast:

when there is some type of difference in the music.

## Fanfare:

a musical 'announcement', based on the pitches of a chord.

#### Blue notes:

the flattened notes in a Blues scale.

## Types of scales:

Major, Minor, (up to 4 sharps and flats), Pentatonic, Blues.

## **Useful terms and their meanings**

## Conjunct:

Stepwise movement in a melody (scalic).

#### Disjunct:

When the melodic movement includes lots of leaps or intervals.

## Arpeggio / broken chord:

When the notes of a chord are played separately and in succession.

#### Anticipation note:

When a note of the next chord is played early, preparing for the intended pitch in the chord.

#### Triadic:

Musical movement that uses the notes of a triad.

#### Pentatonic melody:

Melody based on a 5-note scale.