

Vocabulary on Music

Instruments



bass



mandolin



guitar



drum set



xylophone



violin



maracas



tambourine



harp

Disco music makes me feel
Uplifting music makes me feel

upbeat, with extra energy, with rhythm.
positive, with a positive message.

Types of Music Features of any kind of music	
Background music	
Classical music	=good for the dance floor.
Disco music	=boring, old, classical instrumental music played at trains and elevators.
Elevator music	
Energetic music	=good for listening to alive
Hard music	
Heavy music	=Good for a nice chat in a coffee shop. Fills up silence.
Jazz music	=
Light music	=easy to listen to.
Relaxed music	=makes me sing
Rock music	
Samba music	
Soft music	
Soul music	Lots of drums. Good for summer time outside.
Upbeat music	=gives you extra energy.
Uplifting music	

B, b

- **genre-bending**

=mezcla de géneros

- **bootleg** adj

=(licor) de contrabando.

=(grabación) pirata.

=made and sold illegally.

A **bootleg** cassette, for example, one recorded illegally at a concert

- **bootlegger** n, **bootlegging** n.

=contrabandista de licores.

=productor, -ora de grabaciones piratas.

A **bootleg** of the concert.

- **Bootleg – bootlegged** v.

=to make or sell goods, especially alcohol, illegally.

C, c

G, g

- **gig**

=(coloq) actuación musical, a performance by musicians playing pop music or jazz in front of an audience.

To do a gig. A Verve gig in Leeds.

=calesa: a small light carriage with two wheels, pulled by one horse.

H, h

- **highly-rated**

=muy bien recibido por la crítica

Their **highly-rated** 2002 album *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* made the reviewers reach for new descriptions.

L, l

- **Likes**

the **likes** of (coloq): =personas (artistas) como

the **likes** of sth/sb (coloq)

He won't speak to the **likes** of me. =No quiere hablar con personas como yo.

And the guests, ranging from rappers Sean Paul and Redman to **the likes of** Youssou N'Docer and Lisa Stanfield, do an excellent job of reinvigorating those party classics.

N, n

- **wrong note**

=nota desafinada

He hit a wrong **note**. =Le salió un gallo.

S, s

singer songwriter = cantautor,-ora

T, t

- **tinkering**

His musical **tinkerings** bore their first fruit

=primeros pasos musicales.

- **tinker** (at/with sth) vi

=enredar (con algo), to make small changes to something in order to repair or improve it, especially in a way that may not be helpful.

=(dañar) manosear, estropear (algo)

tinker n

not to give a **tinker's** 'cuss

=not to care about something at all.

not to give a **tinker's** damn

=not to care about something at all.

Types of Instruments

- **bombo**

=bass drum; bass drummer(músico)

My head's **thumping**

=tengo la cabeza como un bombo

I've (got) a **splitting** headache

=tengo la cabeza como un bombo

With a great fanfare

=con bombos y platillos or a bombo y platillo

A great song and dance was made about the signing of the treaty.
 =el pacto se firmó con bombos y platillos.
 The movie's been given a lot of **hype**
 =darle bombo a algo: se le ha dado mucho bombo a la película.
 To blow one's own trumpet =darse bombo
 (Lottery) A **drum** =bombo de un sorteo
 He got her in the family way or the **club**
 =(de una mujer embarazada): le hizo un bombo

C, c

• **clarinet** =clarinete

D, d

• **drum** n.
 =tambor.
 • **bass drum** =bombo
 to beat the **drum** for something
 =anunciar or pregonar algo con bombos y platillos or a bombo y platillo.
drums plural (in band) batería.
 With Buddy Rich on **drums** =con Buddy Rich en (la) batería.
 (container) bidón
 (machine part) tambor; a revolving **drum** =un tambor giratorio.
 (spool) tambor
 (Cars)
 (brake drum) tambor (del freno)
 (brake) (colloquial) freno de tambor
 (Architecture) tambor

drum -drummed vt, vi
 <table/floor> golpetear
 to **drum** one's fingers =tamborilear con los dedos

drum vi
 (Music) tocar el tambor
 (vibrate) «sound» resonar
 (beat, tap) «person» dar golpecitos, tamborilear
 «rain/hail/hooves» repiquetear

drum into phv (v. + object + prep. + object)
 to **drum** something **into** somebody o somebody's head
 =hacerle aprender algo a alguien a fuerza de repetírselo or (colloquial) de machacárselo.
 She has had it **drummed into** her that she mustn't ...
 =le han hecho aprender a fuerza de repetírselo or de machacárselo que no debe ...

drum out of (v. + object + adv. + prep. + object)
 <of army/school> expulsar de

drum up (v + adv + object)
 <support> conseguir, obtener

She's trying to **drum up** enthusiasm for the scheme
=está tratando de despertar entusiasmo por el plan.

L, l

• **'lah' or la** =musical note 'la'

• **piano** =piano

P, p

R, r

• **recorder** n.

= (Music) flauta dulce

= (in UK) (Law) abogado que actúa como juez a tiempo parcial

S, s

• **saxophone** =saxofón

'soh' or 'sol' =musical note

• **triangle** =triángulo

T, t

V, v

• **violin** =violín

Vocabulary for Music Exchange Students

2/4 time.

Time signature that indicates that there are two beats to a bar and the quarter-note gets one beat.
Also called simple duple.

3/4 time.

Time signature that indicates that there are three beats to a bar and the quarter-note gets one beat. Also called simple triple.

4/4 time.

Time signature that indicates that there are four beats to a bar and the quarter-note gets one beat. Also called simple quadruple.

Absolute music.

"Abstract" music or music written in specific forms for its own sake - that is, with no connection to a story or other type of "program" .

Articulation.

The joining or separation of tones.

Bass clef.

The clef used for lower-pitched instruments or voices.

Beat.

A steady pulse.

Binary form.

A musical form that consists of two sections (AB).

Body percussion.

Clapping of hands, snapping of fingers, or tapping of any part of the body to produce different sound effects.

Brass instrument.

Instrument that is made of metal and that has a cupped mouthpiece (e.g., trumpet, trombone, tuba).

Coda.

An extra section of music at the end of a piece.

Conducting patterns.

Patterns by which the conductor indicates the beats in a bar.

Crescendo.

A common term for the gradual increase in volume.

Da capo al coda.

Abbreviated as D.C. al coda. Indication to return to the beginning of the piece and play to al coda, then play the coda.

Da capo al fine.

Abbreviated as D.C. al fine. Indication to return to the beginning of the piece and play to fine (the end).

Dal segno al coda.

Abbreviated as d.s. al coda. Indication to return to the sign § and play to al coda, then play the coda.

Dal segno al fine.

Abbreviated as d.s. al fine. Indication to return to the sign § and then play to fine (the end).

Decrescendo.

A common term for the gradual decrease in volume.

Dotted note or rest.

A note or rest to which the dot adds one-half its value. The following are some examples in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 time:

- dotted half-note. A note that is held for three beats.
- dotted half rest. Indication of a period of silence lasting three beats.
- dotted quarter-note. A note that is held for one and one-half beats.
- dotted quarter rest. Indication of a period of silence lasting for one and one-half beats.

Dynamics.

The varying degree of volume.

Eighth-note.

A note that is held for one-half of a beat.

Eighth rest.

Indication of a period of silence lasting for one-half of a beat.

Elements of music.

Fundamental components of music. They include pitch, beat, rhythm, melody, dynamics, tone colour, texture (e.g., homophony, polyphony), form.

Family of instruments.

A grouping of similar types of musical instruments. In European music, there have traditionally been four families of instruments (i.e., woodwinds, brass, strings, and percussion). Some musicologists now add extra families to include electronic instruments and musical instruments of other parts of the world.

First and second endings.

Signs that indicate the following procedure: at the repeat sign at the end of the first ending, the performer repeats the section just played, then goes on to play the second ending.

Form.

The structure of a piece of music.

Found instrument.

An object that can produce a rhythmic or pitched sound (e.g., stick, comb, pop bottle).

Half-note.

A note that is held for two beats in simple time.

Half rest.

Indication of a period of silence lasting two beats in simple time.

Homophony.

Music consisting of a single melodic line with chordal accompaniment.

Interval.

The distance between two notes.

Melodic ostinato.

A repeated melodic pattern.

Monophony.

Music consisting of a single melodic line.

Percussion instrument.

An instrument that one has to hit, scrape, or rattle in order to make a sound.

Phrase.

A group of sounds that has a beginning, middle, and end.

Pick-up notes.

Notes that lead in to the downbeat.

Pitch.

The highness or lowness of a tone.

Polyphony.

Music consisting of two or more melodic lines that are performed simultaneously.

Program music.

Music that depicts a story, scene, or emotion.

Quarter-note.

A note lasting one beat in simple time.

Quarter rest.

Indication of a period of silence lasting one beat in simple time.

Rhythm.

The pattern of long and short sounds.

Rhythmic ostinato.

A repeated rhythmic pattern.

Rondo.

A form of music that often consists of five sections, of which the first, third, and fifth are the same or almost the same (ABACA or ABABA).

Skip.

Any interval that is larger than a step (or second); for example, the interval of a third, which is the distance between notes either a line or a space apart on the staff.

Staff.

The five lines and four spaces on which music is written.

Stringed instrument.

An instrument that has strings and that is played with a bow or plucked (e.g., violin, viola, violoncello, double bass, guitar, lute).

Step.

The interval between a note that is on a line and a note on the adjacent space, or vice versa. Also called the interval of a second.

Tempo.

The speed of a piece. Some common tempo indications are: allegro (quickly and lively), moderato (at a moderate speed), andante (somewhat slowly, at a walking pace), largo (slowly).

Ternary form.

A musical form that consists of three sections. The third section is a repetition of the first (ABA).

Texture.

The relationship between the "horizontal" aspect of music (i.e., melody) and the "vertical" (i.e., harmony). For example, texture that is mainly vertical is homophonic (i.e., it consists of a melody with chordal accompaniment), and texture that is mainly horizontal is polyphonic (i.e., it consists of two or more melodies sung or played together).

Theme and variations.

A form of music in which a melody or section of music constitutes the basis for a series of variations (A, A1, A2, A3...).

Tone colour.

The unique quality of sounds that allows us to distinguish between them. Also called timbre.

Treble clef.

The clef used for higher-pitched instruments or voices. Also called the G clef.

Unison.

The sound produced when two or more instruments or voices play or sing the same pitch. The term also is used to refer to the interval that occurs when two melodic parts (voices or instruments) join to produce the same sound.

Whole note.

A note that is held for four beats in simple time.

Whole rest.

Indication of a period of silence lasting for four beats in simple time.

Woodwind instrument.

An instrument that one has to blown into in order to make a sound (e.g., clarinet, oboe, English horn, flute, recorder, bassoon). Despite the name, they are not all made of wood - flutes are usually made of metal and some clarinets are also made of metal.

More language practice on Music

<http://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/music-or-the-vocabulary-of-music>

<http://www.lyricstraining.com/>

