

Music Challenges

To get you ready for when we see you next, I have come up with some challenges I would like you try and have a go at!



This is what we use to describe music. Some words you will know others will be new. Being able to describe music is important as it means we can say why we like or dislike something and how we can get better at something.

Describing music using MAD T-SHIRT

MELODY

ASCENDING OR DESCENDING?
HIGH OR LOW PITCHED?
WIDE OR NARROW RANGE?
MOVING IN LEAPS/STEPS/SKIPS?
SCALES:
MAJOR/MINOR/BLUES/CHROMATIC/MODAL/ATONAL?
DEVICES:
REPETITION/MOTIFS/SEQUENCE/O-STINATO?
ORNAMENTS?

ARTICULATION

HOW ARE THE NOTES BEING PLAYED?
STACCATO – SHORT AND DETACHED?
LEGATO – SMOOTHLY AND CONNECTED?
ACCENTED NOTES?
PIZZICATO – PLUCKED WITH FINGERS?
ARCO – PLAYED WITH THE BOW?
SLURRED?

DYNAMICS

HOW LOUD OR SOFT IS THE MUSIC?
WHAT HAPPENS TO THE VOLUME?
pp – PIANISSIMO
p – PIANO
mp – MEZZO PIANO
mf – MEZZO FORTE
f – FORTE
ff – FORTISSIMO
CRESCENDO/DIMINUENDO?
SFORZANDO?

TEXTURE

HOW ARE THE INDIVIDUAL PARTS OF A PIECE WORKING TOGETHER?
THICK OR THIN? COMPLEX OR SIMPLE?
MONOPHONIC/POLYPHONIC/HOMO PHONIC/HETEROPHONIC?
MELODY & ACCOMPANIMENT?
COUNTERMELODY?
PARALLELL/CONTRARY MOTION?
UNISON? DRONE/PEDAL NOTE?
CONTINUO? CALL & RESPONSE?

STRUCTURE

HOW MANY SECTIONS IN THE PIECE AND IN WHAT ORDER?
WHAT IS THE FORM OF THE PIECE? BINARY – AB? TERNARY – ABA? RONDO – ABACADA?
SONATA? CONCERTO? THEME AND VARIATION? RITORNELLO?
POP MUSIC – VERSE? CHORUS?
MIDDLE 8? BRIDGE? PRE-CHORUS? INTRO/OUTRO? SOLO?
12 BAR BLUES?

HARMONY

MAJOR OR MINOR KEY?
DIATONIC OR CHROMATIC?
CONSONANT/DISSONANT?
KEY CHANGES/MODULATION
CADENCES: PERFECT; PLAGAL;
IMPERFECT; INTERRUPTED?
HARMONIC RHYTHM – DO
CHORDS CHANGE SLOWLY OR QUICKLY?
IS THERE A PARTICULAR SEQUENCE E.G. I – IV – V

INSTRUMENTS

BRASS –
TRUMPET/HORN/TROMBONE/TUBA. STRINGS –
VIOLIN/VIOLA/CELLO/DOUBLE BASS. WOODWIND –
PICCOLO/FLUTE/CLARINET/OBOE/BASSOON. PERCUSSION –
TIMPANI/CHIMES/CYMBALS. PIANO/HARPSICHORD/ORGAN. GUITAR/ELECTRIC BASS/DRUMS/VOCALS/SYNTHS/LOOPS.
SITAR/TAMBURA/TABLA/BOUZOUKI/OUD/DOUMBK/DJEMBE/DUNDUN/SURDO/TAMBOURIN/DHOL/RIQ/STEEL DRUMS.

RHYTHM

DURATION – LONG OR SHORT
NOTES? PULSE/BEAT.
SEMIQUAVERS/QUAVERS/CROTCHETS/MINIMS/SEMIBREVES?
SYNCOPIATION? DOTTED
RHYTHMS? TRIPLETS?
CROSSRHYTHM/POLYRHYTHM?
CHAAL/TALA/WAZN.
UPBEAT/ANACRUSIS? RESTS?
PAUSES?
TIED NOTES?

TIME/TEMPO

REGULAR OR IRREGULAR
METRE? SIMPLE OR COMPOUND
METRE? SIGNATURE – 3/4, 4/4, 6/8, 12/8, 5/4, 7/8 ETC?
TEMPO – FAST OR SLOW?
LARGO, MODERATO, ANDANTE, ALLEGRO, PRESTO,
ACCELLERANDO, RALLENTANDO,
RUBATO? SPEEDING UP/SLOWING DOWN?

YOUR MISSION NOT IMPOSSIBLE



You need to write about a song you like. You have a choice of three challenges:

BRONZE: Use 3 sections from the MAD TSHIRT to describe the music

SILVER: Use up to 5 sections from the MAD TSHIRT to describe the music and how it changes

GOLD: Using MAD TSHIRT to compare your song with another saying which is best and why.

Musical Extension: Have a go at performing your song find a karaoke track and sing along.