

THE LANGUAGE OF MUSIC

Accompaniment:	The musical background behind the melody.
Baton:	The short stick used by conductors to guide the orchestra.
Chord:	The sounding of three or more tones at the same time.
Concertmaster:	The leader of the first violins.
Concerto:	(kon-CHAIR-toe) Music for soloist and orchestra, usually in three movements.
Fugue:	(FYOOG) A type of music where instruments enter one by one, like musical follow the leader.
March:	A piece with a strong beat suitable for timing the steps of people walking together.
Medley:	Several related melodies played as one piece.
Melody:	A series of single tones; the singing part of the music.
Movement:	A section of a larger work that sounds complete by itself.
Opera:	(AH-prah) A musical drama that is sung.
Opus:	(OH-pus) A number referring to a certain piece. Some composers use the opus system to number all the pieces they write.
Octave:	(OCK-tiv) A leap of 8 tones, like C to C.
Overture:	A musical introduction to an opera, musical, or ballet —usually performed before the drama begins, or near the beginning of a concert.
Pitch:	How high or low a note sounds.
Rhythm:	The pattern of sound and silence, the timing of the music.
Scale:	A series of 8 notes moving in one direction. “do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do” is a scale.
Score:	Printed notes showing all the parts for a piece of music.
Suite:	(SWEET) A group of shorter instrumental pieces that make up a larger work such as highlights from a ballet or an opera.
Symphony:	(SIM-foh-nee) A type of music written for orchestra, usually in four movements.
Tempo:	The speed at which the music is played.
Theme:	An important musical statement heard several times throughout a piece.
Tune (the verb):	Adjusting an instrument to play a certain pitch.
Variations:	Different ways of playing a theme.