

acoustic

Refers to an instrument that is not made louder by electrical equipment.

ballad

A slow, romantic song, or a song that tells a story.

beat

The steady pulse that you feel in a piece of music.

brass

A group of musical instruments made from metal, which are usually made up of a long tube that ends in a flared bell.

choir

An organised group of people who sing together.

chorus

A part of a song that is repeated several times, usually after each verse.

classical

A genre of music developed in the 18th and 19th centuries from a European tradition.

cochlea

A hollow coiled tube inside the inner ear, which contains nerves that help to carry information about sound to the brain.

composition

A piece of music that someone has written.

contemporary

Refers to music from the current time period.

decibel (dB)

A unit for measuring the loudness of a sound.

diction

The way words are pronounced.

duet

A performance by two singers or musicians.

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ear canal

The tube that connects the outer and middle ear.

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eardrum

The thin membrane that separates the outer and middle ear and vibrates in response to sound waves.

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ensemble

A group of musicians who perform together.

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folk

A type of music that is traditional for a particular group of people or a place.

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genre

A type of art, music or literature.

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Haka

A traditional war dance performed by the Maori people of New Zealand.

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improvise

To make up music during a performance.

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instrument

A device used to make music.

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insulator

A material used to stop sound, heat or electricity from passing through it.

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jazz

A modern type of improvised music developed by African Americans.

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lullaby

A quiet song that is sung to help a child sleep.

melody

The main tune in a piece of music.

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onomatopoeia

The act of creating words that sound similar to the noises the words refer to, for example, buzz, pop and gurgle.

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ossicles

Three small bones in the middle ear.

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outer ear

The part of the ear, which includes the pinna and the ear canal, that collects sound waves and directs them towards the eardrum.

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percussion

A group of musical instruments that are played by striking them with an object or your hands, such as drums, tambourines and cymbals.

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performance

The act of entertaining other people by playing music, singing, dancing or acting.

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pinna

The visible part of the outer ear that is outside the head, and acts like a funnel, directing sounds down the ear canal.

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pitch

The measure of how high or low a note is.

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playlist

A list of songs or pieces of music.

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pop

A type of modern, popular music that is memorable and easy to listen to.

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rock

A type of popular music with a loud, strong beat that is often played with electric guitars and drums.

rhythm

The pattern of sounds, words or notes that is used in music.

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score

A written musical composition.

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solo

A performance that is done alone.

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sound

Vibrations that travel through the air or other medium and can be heard when they reach the ear.

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soundproof

Designed to prevent the passage of sound.

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strings

A group of musical instruments that have strings and are played using a bow or the fingers.

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tempo

The speed of a piece of music.

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verse

A part of a song that tells a story and comes before and after the chorus.

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vibration

A quick, back and forth movement.

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volume

The level of sound measured in decibels (dB).

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woodwind

A group of musical instruments that are played by blowing through them and are pipe-shaped.