



A level

Musical Language Glossary

Name: _____

Key Word	Definition
Structure and Form	
Binary	
Ternary	
Fugue	
Passacaglia	
Ritornello	
Rondo	
Arch-form	
Theme and variations	
Minuet and Trio	
Sonata	
Sonata-rondo	
Scherzo and trio	
Da capo aria	
Strophic	
Through-composed	
Cyclic	

Harmony	
Diatonic	
Chromatic	
Functional	
Harmonic rhythm	
Consonant	
Dissonant	
Essential/unessential notes	
Passing notes	
Auxiliary notes	
Acciaccaturas	
Appoggiaturas	
Suspensions	
Pedal	
Drone	
False relation	
Perfect cadence	
Imperfect cadence	
Plagal cadence	
Interrupted cadence	
Tierce de Picardie	
Inversion	
Seventh chord	
Added note chord	
Diatonic	
Chromatic discord	
Circle of fifths	

Instrumentation and Timbre	
Pizzicato	
Arco	
Con sordino	
Spiccato	
Col legno	
Double stopping	

Melody	
Intervals	
Conjunct	
Disjunct	
Triadic	
Blue notes	
Pentatonic	
Whole tone	
Note row	
Augmentation	
Diminution	
Fragmentation	
Inversion	
Retrograde	
Sequence	
Motivic development	
Slide/glissando/portamento	
Ostinato/Riff	
Phrasing/Articulation	

Rhythm and Metre	
Pulse	
Irregular	
Additive	
Polyrhythm	
Augmentation	
Diminution	
Hemiola	
Cross-rhythm	
Dotted rhythm	
Tempo	
Rubato	
Accentuation	

Texture	
Monophonic	
Polyphonic	
Contrapuntal	
Homophonic	
Heterophonic	
Imitative	
Canonic	
Fugue	
Layered	
Unison	
Antiphonal	
Melody and accompaniment	

Musical styles and genres	
Baroque	
Classical	
Neo-classical	
Romantic	
20 th Century	
Nationalism	
Expressionism	
Serialism	
Oratorio	
Concerto grosso	
Opera	
Aria	
Chorus	
Concerto	
Symphony	
Chamber groupings	
Lied	