

MUSIC GLOSSARY

1. The Frame:

a) **Score & Staff** = Partitura e pentagrama.



b) **Clef** = clave (high or low depending on the sound's range).

c) **Key** = tonality. **Modulation** = changing from the home key.

2. Notes, figures, rests & alterations:

a) **C (do), D (re), E (mi), F (fa), G (sol), A (la), B (si).**



c) **Sharp** (sostenido) it raises the pitch of the note a halftone, **flat** (bemol) it lowers halftone, **natural sign** (becuadro) cancels sharp or flat.

3. Rhythm:

a) **Metre** shows how many **beats** (accents) are in a **measure/bar** (compás). Usually, the first beat is the strongest one.

b) **Types** of metre: Binary/ternary, regular/irregular (5/4, 5/8, 7/8).

c) **Rhythm pattern** can be changed by **syncopation** (moving the strong beats away) or playing different metres alternating like in **hemiolas** (3/4 – 6/8).

d) **Time signature** is expressed by numbers where the top number means the number of beats and the bottom one means how long is the beat:

1/4	2/4	3/4	4/4	5/4
3/8	5/8	6/8	12/8	7/8

e) Other rhythm signs:

- > **Dot** (puntillo) increases the note in a half.
- > **Tie** (ligadura) links the notes between them.
- > **Triplet** (tresillo) consists of 3 notes in the place of 2.

4. Tempo & dynamics signs

a) Presto, allegro, allegretto, andante, adagio, lento.

b) Fortissimo, forte, mezzoforte, piano, pianissimo.

5. Texture:

a) **Monody** = one voice (or many singing the same).

b) **Accompanied melody** = one voice plus chords or bass line.

c) **Homophony** = Many voices keeping similar rhythm as chords.

d) **Polyphony** = Many voices with different tune & pattern

6. Structure:

- a) **Simple forms** (A): Strophic songs where 1 phrase (also called verse/stanza) is repeated.
- b) **Binary forms** (AB).
- c) **Ternary forms** or Da Capo (ABA).
- d) **Chorus forms:** Verse + chorus:
 - Verse = same tune but different lyrics each time.
 - Chorus (estribillo) = same tune & lyrics each time.

7. Composition:

The basic composition tool is the **repetition** but it can be done in many ways:

- a) **Sequence:** Repeat a musical phrase in another key.
- b) **Development:** Introduces new elements like intros, variations, coda, cadences, etc.
- c) **Variation:** Theme + variations or variations upon a ground (over a fixed bass).

8. Scales:

Scales are series of notes keeping different intervals between them (tone, semitone or quarter tone). These structures are used for making up tunes and chords. The **chord** consist of 2 notes (usually 1^a-3^a-5^a of an octave scale) played at the same time. Types of scales:

- a) **Modal** scales: based on the Greek scales; All are octaves (eight notes) and they have different structure (and mood) because tones & semitones are in different place depending on the starting note (intervals E-F & B-C are semitones; the rest are tones). These Greek scales, better known as modal music, kept during Middle Age (with different name) and lasted until 1600 in art music, even nowadays some **folk & art music**.
- b) **Tonal** scales: System based in 2 Greek octave scales that we call C Major (do mayor, 2 tones between 1^a & 3^a note) and A minor (la menor, 1'5 tone between 1^a & 3^a note. Since 1600 tonality is the common way for the Western art music.
- c) **Pentatonic**: 5 note scales with no semitones (no E-F nor B-C). They are common in blues-rock and in the Far East (China, Japan, etc).

9. Chronological chart:

- **Greece & Rome** (VII B.C- V A.D): Homer, private lyric & public games, cities & empire.
- **Middle Ages** (V-XV): Troubadeurs, minstrels and goliards; Al Andalus and Feudal courts, Romanic & Gothic, Cantigas, Gregorian chant, first polyphonies.
- **Reinassance** (XV-XVI): Print, bourgeoisie, banks, book- songs, dances, music chapels and great polyphony development.
- **Baroque** (XVII-XVIII): Public theatres, violin and orchestra, concert, opera.
- **Classicism** (XVIII): Enlightenment and revolutions, sonata, symphony and forte piano; Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven.
- **Romanticism** (XIX): Nationalism, bigger orchestras and operas, classic ballet.
- **XX century**: Impressionism, Expressionism, Nationalism, Neoclassicism & advangardes.