

GCE Music Terminology List

	Never Heard	Rough Idea	I Know it!
Melody			
Anacrusis			
Conjunct			
Disjunct			
Sequence			
Repetition			
Contrast			
Counter melody			
Intervals e.g. tritone			
Fragmented			
Portamento			
Ornamentation			
Phrasing			
Passing note			
Auxiliary note			
Essential/Unessential note			
Augmentation			
Diminution			
Episodic work			
Idée Fixe/leitmotif/motto theme			
Thematic transformation			
Phasing			
Diatonic and chromatic intervals (up to an octave)			
Arpeggios/broken chords			
Scale including (tonic, supertonic, mediant, subdominant, submediant, leading note)			
Chromatic movement			
Pentatonic			
Blues/blue note			
Guide tone			
Chromatic			
Whole tone			
Tritone			
Modal			
12 tone			
Klangfarbenmelodie			
Octatonic			
Range			
Syllabic			
Melismatic			
Riff			
Lick			
Harmony			
Primary chords			
Secondary chords			

Tonic			
Subdominant			
Dominant 7 th			
Cadential 6/4			
Major 7 th			
Minor 7 th			
Diminished chords			
Neapolitan 6 th			
Augmented 6 th			
Ninth chord			
Secondary seventh			
Sus4 chord			
Added 6 th			
Power chord			
Inversions			
Appoggiaturas			
Tierce de picardie			
Added note chord			
Jazz chord extensions and use of guide tones			
Essential and unessential notes			
Cadences: perfect, imperfect, plagal, interrupted, phrygian			
Modulation			
Suspension			
Quartal Harmony			
Diatonic			
Functional Harmony			
Non-functional harmony			
Concords/Consonance			
Discords/Dissonance			
Clusters			
Chromatic harmony			
Parallel harmonies			
Consecutive chord			
Harmonic rhythm			
Circle of fifths			
Higher dominant discord			
Drone			
Pedal			
Tetrachord			
Form and structure			
Binary			
Ternary			
Rondo			
Ritornello			
Theme and variations			
Strophic			
Sonata Form			
Tone/Symphonic poem			
Sonata Rondo			
Minuet and Trio/Scherzo			
Arch form			

Through composed			
Cyclic			
Verse and chorus			
Pre-chorus			
Refrain			
32 bar song/AABA			
24 bar structure			
12 bar blues			
Introduction			
Exposition			
Development			
Recapitulation			
Coda			
Fugue			
Real answer			
Tonal answer			
Requiem			
Cantata			
Mass			
Oratorio			
Recitative			
Aria			
Chorus			
Kyrie			
Gloria			
Dies Irae			
Tuba Mirum			
Rex Tremendae			
Introduction			
Outro			
Middle eight/release			
Programmatic forms			
Fugue			
Ostinato			
Ground bass			
Repetition			
Bridge			
Loop			
Fill			
Riff			
Break			
Jazz chorus			
Head			
Cadenza			
Inversion			
Retrograde			
Retrograde inversion			
Improvisation			
Call and response			
Echo			
Integration			
Aleatoric			
Phrase structure			

Tonality			
Major			
Minor			
Modal			
Atonal			
Bitonal			
Polytonal			
Tonic			
Dominant			
Relative minor			
Modulation			
Tonicisation			
Transposition			
Enharmonic			
Octatonic			
Tempo			
Terms for speeds from very slow to very fast			
All terms linked with set works/ individual repertoire			
Dynamics			
Terms from very soft to very loud			
Signs/symbols in common usage			
All terms linked with set works/ individual repertoire			
Accents			
Subito			
Sforzando			
Timbre			
All orchestral instruments			
Acoustic instruments			
Electronic instruments			
Pit orchestra/band			
Underscoring			
Rock and pop bands			
Jazz combos and associated performance techniques, e.g. mutes, growls, walking bass, drum kicks and fills, comping, stab chords			
Front-line, Rhythm section			
Articulation e.g. legato, staccato			
Vocal combinations e.g. Solos, duets, trios ensembles and choruses			
Vocal qualities e.g. speech-like, belt, twang and falsetto			
Scat			
A cappella			
Performance techniques associated with areas of study, e.g. sul ponticello, stride, scat			
Music technology e.g. distortion,			

feedback, tremolo, effects such as wah-wah pedal			
Unusual instruments e.g. theremin			
Pointillism			
Texture			
Monophonic			
Homophonic			
Polyphonic			
Contrapuntal			
Heterophonic			
Unison			
Chordal			
Imitation			
Melody dominated homophony			
Counter melody			
Counterpoint			
Descant			
Round			
Canon			
Drone			
Layering			
Stretto			
Antiphony			
Fugal			
Multi layered improvisation			
Stab chords			
Alberti bass			
Walking bass			
Rhythm and metre			
All note values and associated rests			
Regular			
Irregular			
Simple time (duple, triple and quadruple, etc.)			
Compound time (duple, triple, quadruple 7/8 etc.)			
Additive metre			
Cross-rhythm			
Rubato			
Dotted rhythm			
Divisions of beat, such as triplets etc			
Syncopation			
Accent			
Free rhythm			
Isorhythm			
Hemiola			
Polyrhythm			
Swung quavers			

Groove			
Kicks			
Double time			
Rest			