

Glossary Words

- Accent(s) - stressing a note or chord, by increasing the volume or extending the duration of it; stressed notes
- Accompaniment (accompanied) - a vocal or instrumental part that supports the main part; supported a main part
- Alloy - material made up of two different metals mixed together
- Alternative- when you can choose one of two or more things
- Alto - an instrument with a range just below the highest range reached by that family of instruments; between the soprano and tenor parts
- Ancient - referring to the time in history from the beginning of the earliest known civilizations and ending with the fall of the Roman Empire in about the year 500
- Aperture - an opening, hole
- Applauds (applause) - praise or approval usually shown by clapping hands
- Avoid - to stay away from; escape
- Balance(d) - a satisfying proportion or harmony between all of the parts
- Bass - the lowest-pitched member of a family of instruments; the lowest part in a musical composition
- Beat(s) - pulse(s) of a rhythm in music
- Bell - cup-shaped or flared opening of a wind or brass instrument
- Bocal - a metal crook which holds the double reed on a bassoon
- Bow - a narrow, slightly curved rod, pointed at one end, about 30 inches long, with horsehair stretched from end to end; used for playing an instrument in the string family, such as a violin
- Brilliant(ly) - having crisp, clear tones; playing with crisp, clear tones
- British - connected to the country of Great Britain or its people, language, or culture
- Brooding - being deep in thought about something; to be somewhat depressed
- Chalumeau - a simple, rustic, reed pipe with 6 to 8 finger holes, used in the 17th and 18th centuries; the ancestor of the clarinet; today a term used to describe the lowest notes of a clarinet
- Characteristic(s) - feature(s) that helps to describe something in order to identify it; particular quality or trait
- Chromatic - going by half steps (or semitones) of the scale (all 13 notes from one scale letter name to the next), instead of the regular intervals of the diatonic 8 note scale
- Circular - being in the shape of a circle or ring
- Classical - the name for a period in music history from the late 18th through early 19th centuries, known for music where balance, a clear style, and moderation were important; art songs, chamber music, operas, and symphonies were important styles of music during this time
- Coiled - twisted into spirals or rings that look like a coil
- Composition(s) - written musical work(s), often long and detailed; the structure of a written piece of music
- Concave - curving inward like the inside of a bowl
- Concert(s) - public performance(s) of music by instrumentalists, singers, or both
- Concertmaster - the first violinist in a symphony orchestra; often the assistant to the conductor
- Conical - shaped like a cone, round and tapering to a point
- Coordinate - to bring together; to musically agree
- Cues - gives a signal
- Cylindrical - having the shape of a tube
- Distinctive - having identifying aspects that are separate or different, making it important; something that stands out or apart
- Double reed - two thin pieces of cane bound together at their thicker ends; also a class of instruments including the oboe and bassoon
- Drumhead(s) - parchment or skin that is stretched over the end(s) of a drum
- Dynamics - varying degrees of loudness or softness in a musical work, and the symbols that indicate them
- Ebonite - a hard, black rubber which can be cut and polished
- Ebony - a tropical tree found in southern Asia that has hard black heartwood
- Effective - producing the desired result

Embouchure Hole - the opening in the mouthpiece of a flute or piccolo
 Emphasis - stress or forcefulness on a single beat to make it stand out or be important
 Enhance(ment) - to improve the value of something; make it more attractive or pleasing
 Etiquette - usual rules for acceptable behavior in public
 Evaluation - to look at (or listen to) and decide on the value or worth of something
 Fanfare - a short, but loud and lively, piece of music played by brass instruments, usually trumpets
 Fingerboard - the narrow part of most stringed instruments (such as a violin) where the fingers press the strings to change pitches
 Flexible - To be able to bend freely without harm; to be available at many different times
 Form - the design or structure of a musical composition
 Friction - the rubbing of one thing against another
 Fugue - a polyphonic composition in which the theme is repeated in different voices at different times
 Fundamental - the necessary part of any system or; the first or lowest note in a series of notes
 Glissando - a rapid slide through a series of consecutive tones in a scale-like passage
 Grandeur - being magnificent, great, splendid, stately
 Harmony (harmonies) (harmonic) - related to the structure, progression, and relationship of chords
 Horsehair - hair from the mane or tail of a horse, used in making bows to play stringed instruments
 Improvise(d) (Improvisatory) - making up music on the spot without preparing it previously; creating a new variation on a melody
 Interpret(ed) (interpretation) - to show the meaning by performing a musical work; to represent the meaning
 Interrelated - to be connected together
 Lacquered - made smooth and shiny with a clear coating; made glossy
 Liturgical - having to do with prayer and worship in a public place
 Lute - an early stringed instrument with a pear-shaped body, a neck, a bent back, and a fingerboard with frets, that is played by plucking the strings with the right hand
 Lyre(s) - stringed instrument(s) in the harp family, used by Greeks in ancient times to accompany a singer or someone reading poetry; stringed instrument(s) having two curved arms connected at the upper end with a crossbar
 Lyrical - something that suggests singing with deep emotion
 Major - referring to a scale from one key note to the next, consisting of all whole steps, except for half steps between the third and fourth notes and seventh and eighth notes; going from C to C on all white keys of a piano
 Mallet(s) - light hammer(s) with rounded head(s) used for playing certain percussion instruments
 Manual - a keyboard of an organ, harpsichord, or piano that is played with the hands
 Mechanism - the way the parts of something work together to produce the effect wanted; the physical process involved for an action
 Medieval - related to the time of the Middle Ages, primarily in Europe between 476 and 1453 A.D.
 Melancholy - very serious or thoughtful; showing sadness or gloom; somber
 Mellow - soft and rich in quality
 Melody - an orderly succession of pitches; tune
 Meter - basic grouping of beats and accents within the measure as indicated by the meter signature
 Minor - referring to a scale from one key note to the next, consisting of all whole steps, except for half steps between the second and third notes, sometimes between the fifth and sixth notes, and sometimes the seventh and eighth notes depending upon whether it is the natural (going from A to A on all white keys of a piano) or melodic minor scale; the harmonic minor scale has a step and a half between the sixth and seventh notes
 Mode(s) - scale pattern(s) consisting of set intervals of whole and half steps; the patterns upon which medieval music was structured, preceding major and minor scales
 Modern - relating to the present time; not in the past
 Mute - a device placed in (or on) an instrument to muffle or soften its tone
 Nobility - being of high rank or born into a class of privileged people
 Notation - a system of written musical notes, rests, and other symbols to indicate pitch, rhythm, and other directions for performers
 Opera(tic) - a drama set to music; related to an opera
 Opportunity(ies) - the chance to get ahead; a favorable possibility
 Origin(ate) (originated) (original) (originally) - first or at first; to start or begin to exist

Overhand - with the hand turned palm down

Participate (participating) - become a part of something; get involved

Pitch(es) - highness or lowness of note(s), determined by how often and how fast the vibrations move

Pizzicato - an Italian word that means to play by plucking rather than bowing the strings

Plaintive - sad or expressing suffering or woe

Planetarium - a room containing an instrument for projecting images of celestial bodies onto a domed ceiling

Platinum - a rare and expensive, hard metal used to make parts of some flutes

Podium - a platform raised above the level of the floor so the person on it can be seen

Progression - a set pattern of chords which often repeats

Range - the total number of tones that an instrument can produce; or, the full variety of different activities

Recording(s) - to keep permanently: either in writing or by sound or video

Reed - a small, vibrating strip of cane or wood attached to the mouthpiece of some woodwind instruments, which makes a tone when air goes over it

Rehearse(d) (rehearsal) - practice alone before giving a public performance; or, to train a group before an appearance

Repertoire - a French word meaning the list of musical pieces a group is prepared to perform or can perform

Representations (representing) - ways to express something; make realistic likenesses; ways to stand for something; to make mental images of something

Resin - product coming from spruce and pine trees, which is distilled and made into resin; high quality pine resin is used as bow rosin

Resonant (resonator) - having deep and strong tones; a hollow tube, open at both ends, which can magnify sound

Scale - a series of notes, going up or down in a definite order of half steps and whole steps

Score - directions for a musical piece; the notation for each instrument, written as separate parts but lined up vertically as they will sound

Shofar - a Hebrew word meaning an ancient, natural trumpet made from a ram's horn; played during religious ceremonies and as a warning in battle

Snares - wires or cords stretched across a drumhead to vibrate against it

Somber - sad; gloomy; serious

Sorcerer - one who practices magic; a wizard

Soulfully - expressing deep emotions

Soundboard - a thin board placed in a string instrument to strengthen its tones by vibrating

Structure(d) - way the parts are put together to make the whole thing; the organization of something

Style(s) - manner(s) of presentation, especially in music; the choices that a composer or performer makes from among the available possibilities

Suspended - hanging freely except where supported from above

Sustained - continuing for a long time without becoming weaker

Symphonic - relating to the symphony in sound or characteristic

Technique(s) - method(s) used to accomplish a goal

Tenure - time during which a position or job is held

Theme (Thematic) - the main melodic phrase in a piece; a tune assoc. with a character in a story; related to the melody

Theory - the general principles of an art or science, as the theory of music; the study of the way music works

Timbre - a French word meaning tone color or quality

Tone(s) - the particular quality of a sound including pitch, length, color, loudness, and expression

Topic(s) - the subject of a story or a conversation; theme

Traditional - practices that have been going on for generations and are passed down

Trait - a feature that is a distinguishing quality

Transform(s) (transformed) - change the appearance, form, or nature of something

Tubular - shaped like a pipe or tube

Tusk - a very long, pointed tooth of animals such as an elephant, walrus, or wild boar

Unique - the only one like it

Valuable - having great importance based on quality or money

Valved - brass instruments using devices which can quickly change the air flow through a shorter or longer length of tube in order to change the pitch of the tones

Velvety - a smooth and soft sound, like velvet

Versatile - able to do many different things well

Vibrate (vibrating) (vibration) - move back and forth quickly and regularly, usually resulting in a sound

Vital - necessary to maintain a function