

Words About Music, pt. I

WORD

DEFINITION

pitch	the highness or lowness of a note or sound
rhythm	the longness or shortness of notes
beat	the steady pulse of the music
tempo	the speed of the beats
meter	the groupings of the beats (duple, triple, quadruple)
instrumentation	the different forces creating music (AKA who/what is making music)
tone	the sound produced
intonation	accuracy of pitch
timbre	the quality of a tone causing it to sound different than other tones even on the same pitch (requires describing words..."the tenor's timbre was too nasal, but the soprano's was clear")
texture	the vertical structure of a composition--how many parts? + interaction of parts
monophonic	a single line of music
homophonic	multiple lines of music moving the same way
polyphonic	multiple lines of music moving independently, creating rich texture

