

chordophones

instruments that use strings for sound production; a classification of instruments of world music

chorus

a group of singers singing in harmony in the context of dramatic art, opera and musical theatre; also the repeated section after each verse in a piece of music that is in verse/chorus form

chromatic scale

a scale that consists of all 12 semitones

climax

part of a composition achieved through the build-up of the concepts of music, such as the dynamics increasing or the pitch getting louder, creating excitement

coda

an ending to a piece of music or a song, where the music is musically resolved; a term usually associated with classical music

coloratura

the highest voice type
in the female vocal
range

consonant

harmonious sound
that is easy on the
Western ear

contrast

anything in music that
is new or different,
changing or interesting

countermelody

a melody heard at the
same time as the main
melody

crescendo

gradually getting
louder

cross rhythms

conflicting rhythmic patterns played simultaneously e.g. three against four or conflicting metres (3/4 against 4/4)

decay

a term referring to the dying away of a sound or sounds in electronic manipulation of sounds

decrescendo

gradually getting softer in volume

definite pitch

a tuned sound

delay

a term referring to the repeat of a sound or sounds in electronic manipulation of sounds

density

the 'thickness' of sound created by layers in a piece of music

diatonic

the major and minor scales used in Western music

diminuendo

gradually getting softer in volume

diminution

a pattern that is repeated with the notes sustained for half their previous duration

dissonant

sound created by a clash of discordant notes; less pleasing to the Western ear than a consonant note

distortion	changing the sound so it is distorted; usually through an effects pedal or amplifier
drone	one or more notes held throughout a piece or section of music
duration	the lengths of sounds and silences in music
dynamics	volume of sound in music, including its relative loudness or softness, changes in volume, and an emphasis or accent on particular sounds
effects pedal	a pedal attached to a guitar by an audio lead, used for distorting the sound

electronic sound

sound created by
electronic technology
