

accents

stresses or emphasis placed on particular notes to shape the musical phrase

acciaccatura

a 'crushed' note; a note played at the same time as, and crushed into, the following note, where the value does not change

acoustic

non-electronic sound; it is mechanical, in that something needs to be vibrating in order to produce the sound

aerophones

instruments that are blown into; a classification of instruments of world music

alto

female vocal type, lower than soprano

anticipation

occurs when a note is played or sung before a strong beat (e.g. a quaver before the first beat of a bar), anticipating the phrase

antiphony

form of question and answer usually related to orchestral sounds where the conversation is between instruments; also relates to liturgical singing in the Greek Orthodox tradition

appoggiatura

a 'leaning' note; a note that leans into the following note, changing the note value

articulation

the way in which specific parts or notes in a piece of music are played; some are specific to particular instruments

art music

the music of Western cultures, including Classical, Baroque and Romantic music; also known as twentieth-century art music

atonal

music that has no tonal centre or home key

attack

in electronic manipulation of sounds; the first part of a sound or sounds

augmentation

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

backbeat

a strong beat or emphasis on the two and four beat, mostly heard in mainstream or popular music

baritone

male mid-range vocal type, between tenor and base

bass

the lowest voice type
in the male vocal
range

beat

the underlying,
regular pulses in a
piece of music

beat boxing

a percussive sound produced
by the mouth, emulating the
drum kit or drum machine
and usually having a rhythmic
role

bend

vocal technique of
distorting the pitch by
sliding around it

binary form

structure of a piece of
music in which two
sections are different,
represented as AB

blues scale

a scale often heard in jazz music; the most common form in scale degree numbers is 1, 3flat, 4, 5flat, and 8

bridge

a section of music that falls between two main sections, bridging them and holding them together

cadence

the ending of a phrase, section or piece of music using particular intervals and chords to suggest that it is finished or unfinished; the chord combinations are perfect, imperfect, plagal and interrupted

call and response

similar to a 'conversation', a piece of music in which a phrase is played or sung and a response by an instrument or vocalist follows

a capella

sung without instrumental accompaniment, usually by a small group

choir

a group of singers, usually
in harmony; sometimes in
soprano/alto/tenor/bass
form
