

lower mordent

a sequence in which we hear a note, then the one below it, then the first note

lyrics

the words of a song or piece of music

macro structure

overall structure of a whole piece of music; can be standard or non-standard

mainstream music

music heard and enjoyed by most people in the artist's time; can encompass rock music, pop music, alternative, hip-hop, rap and other styles popular today

material

substance used to make something, such as the strings of a guitar

melisma

the singing of several notes to one syllable

melodic contour

the shape of the melody

melodic ostinato

a repeated melodic pattern

melodic role

fulfilled by an instrument or voice that holds the melody in a piece of music

melody

a horizontal succession of pitches

membranophones

instruments that feature a stretched membrane, or skin; usually, although not always, drum-like

metre

the grouping of beats in a piece of music and the basis for measuring musical time

mezzo forte

moderately loud

mezzo piano

moderately soft

mezzo-soprano

female vocal type in the middle range between alto and soprano

micro structure	internal structure of a piece of music, as in specific sections, or a phrase or verse
microtone	literally a 'small tone', an interval smaller than a semitone
modes	scales on which modal tonality, the earliest documented scale system, is based
modulation	the change of key in music
monophonic	a texture characterised by a single melodic line

motif

a melodic, harmonic or rhythmic fragment heard throughout a piece of music that helps unify the piece

notation

the written representation of music; can be traditional or graphic

note value

the length or duration of a note

oratorio

a musical composition (most often in the classical style) featuring a solo singer usually accompanied by a full orchestra and choir

ornamentation

the decoration of a melody or harmony with special features to add interest and expressive qualities, such as a trill, mordent or glissando

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ostinato

a constantly repeated musical phrase in the same instrument or voice; can be rhythmic, melodic or harmonic

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