

**MELODY**– the direction and contour of a horizontal line of music.

**Examples:** smooth/disjointed, long/short, balanced/imbalanced

**RHYTHM** – the relative lengths of the notes. Included in this category, but not the same thing, are meter and beat. Beat refers to the steady pulse that runs through the piece, and meter refers to the repeated pattern of strong vs weak beats.

**Examples:** Meter include 2/4, 3/4, 6/8 etc., Rhythms include all of the

possible durations of notes, Beat refers to tempo of the repeated strong pulse

**HARMONY**– the chords/vertical sounds in a piece, the key used, the relationships of chords.

**Examples:** Major, minor, diminished etc. chords, and can also include atonal vertical (occurring simultaneously) sonorities

**TIMBRE** – the sounds or sonorities used, including instruments, voices or electronics

**Examples:** flute, piano, electric guitar, soprano, computer-generated sounds

**FORM** – how the music is divided into sections and how these relate to each other **Examples:** sonata-allegro form, rondo form, ternary A-B-A form

**DYNAMICS/ARTICULATIONS** – loudness and quietness / style of performance

**Examples of Dynamics:** pianissimo, piano, mezzo piano, mezzo forte, forte

**Examples of Articulations:** slurs, staccato, tenudo, accents, marcato

**TEXTURE**– the various layers or “thickness” of the music

**Examples:** 2 voices moving in parallel motion, 3 voices with very different material, orchestral vs solo, etc