THE ELEMENTS OF MUSIC – Rhythm, Melody, Harmony, & Timbre

Composer uses . .

TONE   and   **RHYTHM**   in designing STRUCTURE   to CONVEY

Melodic Line - a meaningful succession
                of tones of various levels
                of pitch
        up/down
        repeated
        skips, leaps, or jumps

Tones have letter names: ABCDEFG
Intervals = distance between tones
Scales = stepwise rising or descending
        pattern of pitches
        •major scales (7-note pattern)
        •minor scales (7-note pattern)
        •pentatonic scales (5 note pattern)

Pitch = high or low sound
        Also called register
Range = wide or narrow

Color
Tone Quality – also known as timbre
Instruments
        •strings, woodwinds, brass, and
        percussion
aerophones, idiophones, membranophones
chordophones, electrophones
        Voice
        •soprano, alto, tenor, bass

TEXTURE
        Harmony = 2 or more tones at the
                same time
        monophonic = one melody
        homophonic = melody with
                chords
        polyphonic – many melodies at
                the same time

Dynamics (levels of volume)
"piano"   soft
mezzoforte   moderately loud
forte   loud
fortissimo   very loud

Pulse = the steady beat
Tempo = the speed of the pulse
        Tempo also means time in
        the Italian language

Notes = musical sounds notated
Rests = notated silences

NOTE RHYTHM – relative duration
        long/short
        even/uneven
        syncopation = accents in unexpected places

RHYTHMIC NOTATION

Symbol	Name	Rest	# of Beats Per note	# of Notes to 4 beats
	whole note		4	one
	half note		2	two
	quarter note		1	four
	eighth note		1/2	eight
	sixteenth note		1/4	sixteen

COMMON TEMPO INDICATIONS
andante = moderately slow; "walking" tempo
allegro =   fast; cheerful
presto =   very fast

METER – organization of pulse into groups of:
        2's = duple meter
        3's = triple meter
        4's = quadruple meter

Rhythm units = measures

PHRASE
    Musical sentence

Motive = a melodic
        Fragment

FORM
AB (binary)
ABA (ternary)
A, A1, A2, A3
    (variation)
ABACA (rondo)

**COMPOSITIONAL
DEVICES**
    sequence
    fragmentation
    inversion
    diminution
    augmentation
    imitation
        canon
        fugue

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Music has
the power
to move
our
emotions