

Knowledge Organiser

What are we learning about?:

- A. What is Minimalism?
- B. Keywords
- C. How does a composer develop a motif?
- D. To what extent can a piece be long in length, but small in content?

Keywords for this Half Term

Minimalism
Metamorphosis
Retrograde

A:

What is Minimalism?

Minimalism is a branch of modern classical music developed in the early 1960s.

Minimalism is a form of art music or other compositional practice that employs limited or minimal musical materials.



Musical Features of Minimalism

- Motif
Short musical idea
- Ostinato
Repeated phrase
- Phase Shifting
Two identical parts which gradually go out of sync as they are repeated together
- Metamorphosis
Making a slight change within the Music

HT4 How do you develop a Musical idea?

B:	Keywords
Minimalism	A form of Classical Music developed in the early 1960s
Metamorphosis	Making a change within the Music. Similar to a variation
Retrograde	A melody that is reversed

C:

How does a composer develop a motif?

A composer is someone who writes a piece of Music. When a composer writes a piece of Music they must develop musical changes to ensure that the piece of Music remains interesting.

- Motif
Short musical idea
- Repetition
Repeating this musical idea
- Augmentation
Lengthening a melody or rhythm
- Diminution
Making a melody or rhythm shorter in size



D:

To what extent can a piece be long in length, but small in content?

A piece of Music might be long in length, but the actual musical content might be quite minimal.

For instance, in Minimalism the whole piece of Music is based on a motif which is a short musical idea. With this musical idea it is musically manipulated and repeated to create a longer piece of Music.

Term	Symbol	Value
semibreve	○	4 beats
minim	♩	2 beats
crotchet	♪	1 beat
quaver	♫	1/2 beat

Term	Symbol	Value
semiquaver	♪	1/4 beat
crotchet rest	♪	1 beat
quaver rest	♫	1/2 beat
semiquaver rest	♪	1/4 beat

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A:

What is Minimalism?

Minimalism is a branch of modern classical music developed in the early [redacted]

Minimalism is a form of [redacted] music or other compositional practice that employs limited or minimal musical materials.



Steve

Philip
Glass

Terry
Riley

Musical Features of Minimalism

- [redacted]
Short musical idea
- [redacted]
Repeated phrase
- [redacted]
Two identical parts which gradually go out of sync as they are repeated together
- [redacted]
Making a slight change within the Music

HT4 How do you develop a Musical idea?

B:

Keywords

[redacted]	A form of Classical Music developed in the early 1960s
[redacted]	Making a change within the Music. Similar to a variation
[redacted]	A melody that is reversed

C:

How does a composer develop a motif?

A composer is someone who [redacted]. When a composer writes a piece of Music they must develop musical changes to ensure that the piece of Music remains interesting.

- Motif



- Repetition



- Augmentation



a melody or rhythm

- Diminution



Making a melody or rhythm [redacted]



D:

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A piece of Music might be long in length, but the actual musical content might be quite minimal.

For instance, in Minimalism the whole piece of Music is based on a motif which is a short musical idea. With this musical idea it is musically manipulated and repeated to create a longer piece of Music.

Term	Symbol	Value
[redacted]	○	4 beats
minim	[redacted]	2 beats
[redacted]	♪	1 beat
quaver	♪	[redacted] beat

Term	Symbol	Value
semitone	[redacted]	1/4 beat
[redacted]	♪	1 beat
quaver rest	♩	[redacted] beat
[redacted]	♪	1/4 beat