

Knowledge Organiser

HT4 How do you develop a Musical idea?

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

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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- []
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- []
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- []
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HT4 How do you develop a Musical idea?

B:

Keywords

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| [] | A form of Classical Music developed in the early 1960s |
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| [] | A melody that is reversed |

C:

How does a composer develop a motif?

A composer is someone who [].
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 []









D:

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| [] |  | 1 beat |
| quaver |  | [] beat |

| Term | Symbol | Value |
|-------------|---|----------|
| semiquaver | [] | 1/4 beat |
| [] |  | 1 beat |
| quaver rest |  | [] beat |
| [] |  | 1/4 beat |