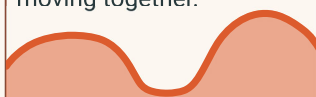


Music for ensemble

Area of study 2 - WJEC GCSE Music

Texture

MONOPHONIC	A single melodic line. 
HOMOPHONIC	A chordal style or melody and accompaniment: moving together. 
POLYPHONIC	A more complex (contrapuntal) texture with a number of different lines. 
Melody and accompaniment	A tune with accompaniment (e.g. chords).
Unison	All parts play/sing the same music at the same time.
Chordal	The music moves in chords (e.g. like a hymn/chorale).
Descant	A decorative, higher pitched line.
Counter melody	A new melody, combined with the theme.
Round	A short (vocal) canon.
Canon	The melody is repeated exactly in different parts but starting at different times, with parts overlapping.
Drone	Long held notes.
2-3-4 part texture	Textures which have 2/3/4 different lines.

Jazz and blues

Scat: vocal improvisation using wordless/nonsense syllables.
Improvised: music made up on the spot.
Blue notes: flattened 3rd, 5th, 7th.
Syncopation: off-beat accents.
Call and response: a phrase played/sung by a leader and repeated by others.
Walking bass: bass line that 'walks' up and down the notes of a scale/arpeggio.
Swing style: 'jazzy' rhythm with a triplet/dotted feeling.

A jazz ensemble may contain:

Rhythm section

- Drums
- Bass (guitar or double bass)
- Piano/guitar

'Horn section'

- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Saxophone

Some groups use a wider range of instruments e.g. clarinet, violin.

12 bar blues

Chords

I I I I
 IV IV I I
 V IV I I/V

Example in C major

C C C C
 F F C C
 G F C C/G

Chamber music

Chamber music was music for a small ensemble, originally played in a small room in someone's home.
Baroque: The **trio sonata** featured one or two soloists, plus **basso continuo** (which consisted of a low-pitched instrument such as a cello playing a bassline, with an instrument playing chords e.g. harpsichord).

Classical: **String quartets** (two violins, a viola and a cello) were popular. They had **four** movements, with the 1st movement usually in sonata form.

Romantic: Chamber music groups were more varied in the Romantic era, using a wider range of instruments (e.g. piano quintet, horn trio). Performances happened in larger concert halls as well as in small 'chambers'.

A piece of music for:

DUET	2 performers
TRIO	3 performers
QUARTET	4 performers
QUINTET	5 performers
SEXTET	6 performers
SEPTET	7 performers
OCTET	8 performers

Welsh folk music

Larger ensembles such as **CHOIRS** and **BRASS BANDS** are popular in Wales, but smaller groups, including folk groups, are also widely found. The harp and fiddle (violin) are widely used.

Musical theatre

Musical numbers may include:

Solo: a song for one singer.
Duet: a song for two singers.
Trio: a song for three singers.
Ensemble: a song sung by a small group.
Chorus: a large group (usually the full company/cast).
Recitative: a vocal style that imitates the rhythms and accents of speech.
Overture: an orchestral introduction to the show, which usually uses tunes from the show.
 The orchestra/band is used to **accompany** the voices and to **underscore**.

Voices

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

The band/orchestra (sometimes called the 'pit' orchestra), may use **strings**, **woodwind** (sometimes called 'reeds'), **brass** and **percussion** and/or a rock/pop band, depending on the style. Most shows also use keyboards or synths.

CERDD DANT is a popular form, which is often performed at an Eisteddfod. The harp begins first, playing a set melody (e.g. a traditional folk song) and the singer joins in, improvising a counter melody.