

# Musical Terms

## Definitions

At St George's, in music lessons throughout the school we use these key musical terms in class.

### Timbre

Timbre (Pronounced Tam-ber) is the quality of a musical note. It is what makes a musical note sound different from another one. Words like round, brassy, sharp, or bright can be used to describe the timbre of a sound.

### Structure

Structure is the order the different sections of a song or piece of music are played in.

### Dynamics

Dynamics means how quietly or loudly a piece of music should be played.

Dynamics are an important way of conveying the mood of a piece of music.

# Texture

Texture describes how layers of sound within a piece of music interact.

Imagine that a piece of spaghetti is a melody line. One strand of spaghetti by itself is a single melody. There can be many of these strands interweaving with one another (like spaghetti on a plate).

# Pitch

The pitch of a sound is how high or low the sound is.

# Duration

Rhythm is a pattern of sounds of different lengths. The length of a sound is called duration.

# Tempo

The tempo is the speed of the music. It is how fast or slow the pulse is.