YEAR 8 MUSIC: MUSIC & MYSTERY

COMPOSITIONAL TECHNOLUES & DEVICES

Glissando	A rapid run of notes up or down the keyboard (can be achieved by gently running the back of the hand up or down). This symbol can be used to represent a glissando when you are notating your ideas:
Ostinato	A short rhythmic idea which is repeated over and over again. For example:
Drone	A long sustained note (or notes), usually low in pitch, which is held on underneath other parts. For example:
Diminished 7th Chord	A four-note chord (with a gap of three semitones between each note) - it sounds like something bad is about to happen. These can be played all at once, or one after another as a broken chord: B D F Ab
Cluster Chord	Playing a group (or cluster) of notes together at the same time—this is usually done by gently pressing the whole hand down onto the keyboard. Cluster chords can be represented using this symbol: short: long:
Chromatic Scale	A scale where every key (white + black) is played in order either going up the keyboard (ascending) or down the keyboard (descending). For example: C C #D D #E F F#G G#A A#B C B Bb A Ab G Gb F E Eb D Db C
Whole Tone Scale	A scale with two semitones (=1 whole tone) between each note. Sounds 'magical': C D E F# G# A#
Articulation	The way in which a note is played. This could be smooth (slurred/legato), staccato (short and spikey) or accented (hard and loud) the symbols for these are as follows:

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



KEY EXAMPLES OF PROGRAMME MUSIC

Danse Macarbe

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- written in 1874 by the French composer Camille Saint-Saëns.
- scored for solo violin and orchestra
- According to legend, Death appears at midnight every year on Halloween. Death calls forth the dead from their graves to dance for him while he plays his fiddle (here represented by a solo violin). His skeletons dance for him until the rooster crows at dawn, when they must return to their graves until the next year.

Carnival of the Animals

- Also written by Saint-Saëns, Carnival of the Animals is a humorous musical suite in fourteen movements, each representing a different animal. The work, which lasts about 25 minutes in duration, was written for private performance by two pianos and chamber ensemble.
- The suite is scored for two pianos, two violins, viola, cello, double bass, flute (and piccolo), clarinet (C and Bb), glass harmonica, and xylophone.

Vltava (The Moldau)

- Composed by Czech composer Bedřich Smetana, Vltana is the second of a collection of six orchestral pieces called Má vlast (also known as My Fatherland).
- Each musical poem depicts an aspect of Bohemia's countryside, history, or legends.
 - In Vltana, Smetana uses tone painting to evoke the sounds of one of Bohemia's great rivers.

The Hebrides Overture

- Felix Mendelssohn's concert overture The Hebrides was composed in 1830
- It was inspired by one of Mendelssohn's trips to the British Isles, specifically an 1829 excursion to the Scottish island of Staffa, with its basalt sea cave known as Fingal's Cave. It was reported that the composer immediately jotted down the opening theme for his composition after seeing the island.
 - The Hebrides Overture does not seek to tell or describe a specific story, but rather to create an atmosphere.

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GLOSSARY





Tone Poem	A single-movement piece of descriptive orchestral music, usually from the Romantic Period (1810-1900)	
Chord Progression	A set sequence of chords played one after another	
Chord [Triad]	Three notes played simultaneously, each with the interval (gap) of a third between them. e.g. D F A is the chord of D minor.	
Tonality	The character of a piece of music as determined by the key in which it is played or the relations between the notes of a scale or key. Usually it will either be MAJOR or MINOR	
Pitch	How high, or low a note is. Pitches are given letter names from A—G. The pitches in between these 'natural notes' may be shown as flats () or sharps (#)	
Rhythm	A pattern of note durations. For example:	
Tempo	How fast or slow the pulse of a piece of music is. Usu- ally indicated using Italian musical terms: <i>Presto</i> —very fast <i>Allegro</i> —quick <i>Moderato</i> —at a moderate pace <i>Adagio</i> - slow and broad <i>Largo</i> —very slow	
Dynamics	How loud or soft the music is. Usually indicated using Italian musical terms and their related symbols:	
	pp p mp mf f ff	