



Topic Background

The Magic Flute is a fairy tale of darkness, light and finding your way in the world. It is an opera by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and takes the form of a Singspiel, which means it includes singing and spoken dialogue (a bit like a musical). This was a very popular form of music during the time it was written (1791).



Listening Pieces

- The Magic Flute, Mozart, 1791

Key Vocabulary

- composer:** someone who writes/creates music
- duet:** when two musicians perform together
- dynamics:** how loud or quiet a sound is
- melody:** the tune of the music made up of high and low pitches
- notes:** a symbol used to write down a musical sound
- opera:** a dramatic piece of music with singers and instrumentalists
- perform:** to show others your music
- pitch:** how high or low a sound is
- pulse:** the heartbeat of the music
- rhythm:** patterns of sound consisting of shorter and longer notes
- sound:** what an instrument, voice or found sound sounds like e.g. twinkly, crunching
- tempo:** how fast or slow the music is



Musical Knowledge

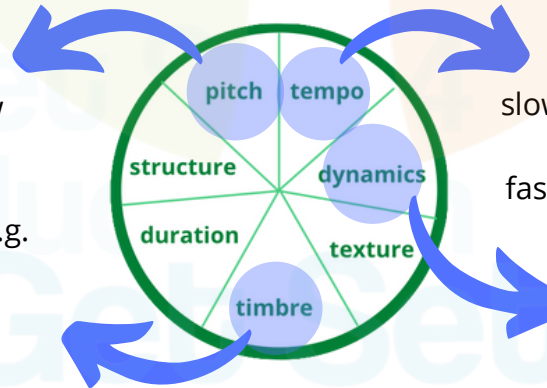
So and mi are the names given to the notes G and E respectively.

So - mi is the first interval that children can pitch and sing easily and most simple nursery rhymes are based upon it. In this unit, children also learn to sing and play 'la', the note A.



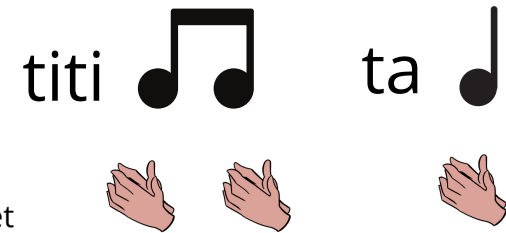
high or low

the sound e.g.
knocking,
twinkling



slow (adagio)
or
fast (allegro)

loud or quiet



Titi (officially paired quavers) and ta (officially a crotchet) indicate the duration of a note in music. They take up the same amount of space when we say, sing or play them.

They both equal one beat.

These are some of the inter-related dimensions of music; pitch, tempo, dynamics and timbre. We explore them through listening, singing, composing and performing.

