Listening to the music of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait artists

## Melody

A melody is a line of musical notes in succession that the listener may perceive as the main part or tune.

The following are words you can use to describe a melody. Take a moment to predict the meaning of these words before your teacher gives you their definition.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Word | Prediction | Musical meaning |
| Melodic Contour |  |  |
| Ascending |  |  |
| Descending |  |  |
| Static |  |  |
| Stepwise |  |  |
| Leap |  |  |
| Smooth |  |  |
| Jagged |  |  |
| Range |  |  |
| Motif |  |  |

Think about other things you may need to know about a melody to describe it.

List them here.

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## Listening response-melody

Answer the questions below to describe the melody of a song played for you in class

1. What is creating the melody?
   1. A voice
   2. An instrument
2. Name the instrument or describe the voice, eg high female voice.

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1. What is the range of the melody?
   1. Narrow – only a few notes that are close together
   2. Wide – both high and low pitches
2. Draw the contour of a section of the melody.

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1. What is the direction of the melody?
   1. Ascending (going up)
   2. Descending (going down)
   3. Ascending and Descending
   4. Static (sticking around the same note)
2. Describe the motion of the melody.
   1. Jagged
   2. Smooth
   3. Stepwise
   4. Leaps
3. Does any part of the melody repeat?
   1. Yes, there is repetition
   2. No, here is no repetition

## Rhythm

A rhythm is a pattern of long and short sounds. It refers to the groupings and organisation of various note values.

The following words relate to rhythm. Take a moment to predict the meaning of these words before your teacher gives you their definition.

|  |  |  |
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| Word | Predication | Musical Meaning |
| Tempo |  |  |
| Pulse |  |  |
| Beat |  |  |
| Accent |  |  |
| Polyrhythm |  |  |
| Ostinato |  |  |

Think about other things you may need to know about a rhythm to describe it.

List them here.

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## Listening response-rhythm

Answer the questions below to describe the rhythm of a song played for you in class

1. Describe the beat.
   1. Definite (can tap along to it)
   2. Indefinite (hard to tap along to)
2. What is the tempo?
   1. Fast
   2. Slow
   3. Moderate
3. Describe the rhythm.
   1. Simple
   2. Complex
   3. Strict and Even
   4. Free
4. What are the note values in the melody?
   1. Mostly long
   2. Mostly short
   3. Mixture of long and short notes
5. What instrument/s drive the beat and pulse of the song?

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1. Are there any repeated patterns?
   1. Yes, there is an ostinato performed by the …
   2. No, the rhythms are constantly changing
2. What else can you describe about the rhythm?

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## Word bank answers for teachers.

### Melody

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Word | Prediction | Musical meaning |
| Melodic Contour |  | Shape of the melody |
| Ascending |  | Melody that goes from low to high notes, moves up |
| Descending |  | Melody that goes from high to low notes, moves down |
| Static |  | Melody that stays around the same few notes |
| Stepwise |  | Melody that moves in scale like patterns, one-two tones at a time |
| Leap |  | An interval movement of more than a 3rd. |
| Smooth |  | Melody comprised of mostly steps |
| Jagged |  | Melody comprised of mostly leaps |
| Range |  | The space between the lowest note and highest note of the melody, described as narrow or wide |
| Motif |  | A part or fragment of a melody. It can be repeated, and imitated by other performers or instruments. |

### Rhythm

|  |  |  |
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| Word | Predication | Musical Meaning |
| Tempo |  | The speed of the music. |
| Pulse |  | Pattern of strong beats. |
| Beat |  | The main time unit of the composition. Can be described as definite (can tap along) or indefinite (cannot tap along). |
| Accent |  | Occurs when one note is played louder than the others and is emphasised |
| Polyrhythm |  | When two or more rhythmic patterns are played at the same time |
| Ostinato |  | A repeated rhythmic or pitch pattern |