
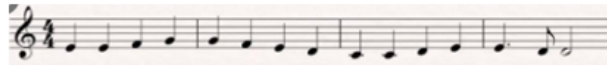

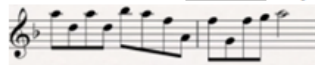



MELODY:

The tune or the catchy bit. The part we remember and can sing along with. In songs the singer has the melody most of the time but we can also find the melody in guitar riffs. In Classical music the Violin often has the melody.

Some important melody key words:	Definition
Conjunct 	The notes are close together. Notes are either the same, one step up or one step down. Lots of famous melodies are conjunct i.e. Ode to Joy: 
Disjunct 	The notes are disjointed – there are leaps or jumps in the melody i.e. the theme from Schindler’s List is MAINLY disjunct: 
Sequence	A sequence is where a composer re-uses the exact rhythm and shape of the melody but has it played in different pitches. You will notice that the rhythm and shape of the music is exactly the same which brings familiarity. The different notes, however, bring a change and variety. See this from the opening of Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony: 
Glissando/Slide/Portamento	This is where the performer slides quickly from one note, through a series of other notes, to a different note. It is used a lot in all sorts of music.
Melisma	Melisma is when a vocalist/singer sings one syllable (i.e. Ah!) using several different notes. This is the sort of thing we expect from people like Mariah Carey or Beyonce. Melisma is used a lot in Blues, Pop and Jazz.
Pitch bend	Pitch bends are where a note is literally bent into a slightly higher or lower note on the guitar.
Chromaticism	Chromaticism is where notes from outside the key are used. Often these notes just decorate the melody i.e. the theme tune of the Pink Panther or Beethoven’s Fur Elise. Sometimes chromatic notes are used to create clashy/dissonant music i.e. for a horror score.
Blue notes	Blue notes are found, unsurprisingly, in the Blues but also lots of pop and rock styles. They are notes that are flattened and you can hear them because they sound ‘bluesy’. Have a go at the blues scale after playing the major scale – notice the flattened intervals.
Trill	A trill is where a note is played and then this note and the note above it are rapidly played one after the other. It sounds like a demented bird but they loved it in the Baroque period...

Questions about Melody from Past Papers

Q: Give three features of the Melody that are typical of the Classical Period.

Answers

- balanced phrasing
- mostly conjunct stepwise
- melodic ornamentation /appoggiaturas.
- chromatic movement

Q: Give three features of the Melody that are typical of Rock Music.

Answers:

- short phrases
- repetitive melodic ideas
- ‘hook’(in chorus)/(on words of title)
- riff
- sequences

Q: Give three features of the Melody that are typical of Blues Music.

Answers:

- short phrases
- use of ‘blue’ notes
- repetitive phrases / melodies
- use of portamento/slide/glissando