

Beethoven Glossary



Keyword	What is the definition? How does it sound?
Classical Period	A period of music from 1750-1820 that consists of composers such as Mozart, Haydn etc.
Romantic Period	A period of music from 1820-1900 that consists of composers such as Chopin, Tchaikovsky etc.
Year Composed	1798
Crescendo	Gradually getting louder.
Diminuendo	Gradually getting quieter.
Fp	Fortepiano – a sudden dynamic/volume change starting loud (forte) and then immediately played quietly (piano).
Fortepiano	A piano, especially of the kind made in the 18th and early 19th centuries.
Virtuoso	Performing a piece of music that is more challenging/to a higher standard.
Tremelo Octaves	Playing one note rapidly (C to C in octaves on piano) at the same time-start of exposition
6 note motif	A melodic phrase that consists of 6 notes only. (introduction theme)
Scalic passages	a tune that moves up or down by step and sticks to notes of the scale.
Descending chromatic	A melody that descends/moves downwards by semitones (every note is next to each other on the keyboard e.g. C, C sharp, D, D sharp) etc.
Ascending scale	A pattern of notes in a particular order moving upwards in pitch.
Ornamentation	Where the melody is decorated with ornaments such as trills, grace notes, acciaccatura's etc.
Sonata Form	The structure consists of the sections – Introduction, Exposition, Development, Recapitulation, Coda
Introduction	Bars 1-10
Exposition/1st Subject	<i>Themes are 'exposed' for the first time</i> Bars 11-50 Bars 35-50 (transition)
Exposition/2nd Subject	Bars 51-132
Development	<i>Themes are developed</i> b. 133 – 194
Recapitulation/1st Subject	<i>'Recap' of themes</i> b.195-220
Recapitulation/2nd Subject	b.221-294
Coda	B.295 - end (material from the intro)
Homophonic	Chordal texture, instruments in unison playing altogether at the same time.

Right hand octaves	On the piano, the performer is playing in the right hand a melody that consists of the 2 same notes but played 8 notes higher or lower than each note.
Melody dominated homophony	one voice, often the highest, plays a distinct melody, and the accompanying voices work together to create an underlying harmony.
Monophonic passage	A section in this piece that only has one instrument/one line of melody playing.
Passage in thirds	A section that move in intervals/melodic steps of 3rds.
Grave	A slow and solemn tempo.
Common time	4/4 time signature – 4 crotchet beats in the bar.
Dotted rhythms	Rhythms that use dotted notes to create syncopation.
Short note values	Note values that are shorter than a beat of crotchet e.g. quaver, semiquaver, demisemiquaver etc.
Allegro di Molto e con Brio	Very quickly, with vigour
Continuous use of quavers	Quavers/notes worth half a beat are used consistently throughout the piece.
Staccato Crotchets	Crotchets/notes worth one beat that are played short and snappy.
Staccatissimo	making each note very short and separate from the next one.
Alberti Bass	Alberti bass is a kind of broken chord, where the notes of the chord are presented in the order lowest, highest, middle, highest.
Broken Chords	A chord has been broken/the notes play seperately from each other but play one after another e.g. C major triad C E G, C E G are playing continously one after another.
Octave jumps	Intervals that have a distance of 8 notes between each other, the same note but at a different pitch.
Perfect Cadence	Normally seen at the end of a piece, a chord progression of V – I and sounds finished.
Diminished 7th	Diminished seventh chords (dim7) are made up of a root (1), a minor third, a diminished fifth and a diminished seventh.
Chromatic Chords	Chords that use accidentals/notes not in the key.
Circle of 5ths	The system to help remember the order of scales and how many sharps or flats are in the key signature.
Key Signature	C minor (3 flats in the key signature – Bb, Eb, Ab)
Relative Major	Eb Major (3 flats in the key signature – Bb, Eb, Ab)
Mediant Key signature	Eb Minor (6 flats in the key signature – Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, Cb)
Unrelated Key signature	E minor (1 sharp in the key signature – F sharp)
Subdominant Key signature	F minor (4 flats in the key signature – Bb, Eb, Ab and Db)
Dominant Key signature	G minor (2 flats in the key signature – Bb and Eb)