

Defying Gravity Glossary



Keyword	What is the definition? How does it sound?
Stephen Schwartz	Musical director for Defying Gravity
Fortissimo	Very loud
Sforzando/Sfz	Suddenly getting louder
Duet	A song that features 2 people singing
Spoken Dialogue	Where dialogue is used in the song and notated on the score
Half sung/Half spoken	Half the music is sung in musical song, the other half is spoken by the character
Vocal Range	Singers are Mezzo soprano
Fanfare	A passage of music used by the brass family to represent importance.
Tremelo	Trembling/creating a vibrating sound on strings
Tutti	The whole of the orchestra plays their instrument
Synthesizer/Glockenspiel	Tuned percussion used in the chorus
Tubular Bells	A percussion instrument that creates a high-pitched sound.
Syllabic	Where the syllables match up with the melodic line
Vocalisation	Using phrases in a piece such as 'ooh's' and 'aah's'
Conjunct	Melody is moving stepwise/notes next to each other
Ascending Sequence	A repeating pattern of notes that ascends in pitch.
Angular Leaps	Wide leaps in the melody
Leitmotif	A musical phrase that represents a character or theme.
Ostinatos	A repeating pattern of notes.
Verse-Chorus Form	A form common with in musical theatre alternating verse-chorus
Monophonic	One line/one instrument of music playing.
Chord Stabs	Accenting chords to create drama
Melody dominated homophony	Melody played with an accompaniment.
Homophonic	Chordal texture, most instruments are played in unison/played altogether.
Unison	Instruments play the exact same thing at the same time.
3rds	The melody moves in distances of a 3 rd .
Contrapuntal	More than one melody played at the same time.
Rallentando	Starting to slow down.
Time signature changes	Change of time signature/change of the beat.

Syncopation	Playing on the offbeat.
Dotted Rhythms	Rhythms using a dotted note to create an offbeat pattern.
Triplets	3 notes played in the same time as 2.
Rests	Where the instruments do not play.
Pause Marks	Used a big moments where the instruments pause/hold onto a long note.
Constant Crotchet Rhythms	Rhythms that use only crotchet/1 beat notes.
Root position	Chords that start with the first note in a chord e.g. CEG, the root position is starting on C
Dissonance	Creating a clashing sound.
Pedal	A long held and sustained note.
Key signature	D major (recording in Db major)
Ambiguous Tonality	The tonality/key signature changes frequently which makes it ambiguous.
Chromatism	Using notes not in the key signature.