

Texture

**Music is built up of
LAYERS.**

**The way these layers
interweave creates
different effects within
the music.**

**We will look at the
following textures:**

**Monophonic
Homophonic
Polyphonic
Heterophonic
Imitative**



Monophonic

"mono" + "phonic" = "monophonic"
"one" + "sound" = "one sound"

Definition: Music with a single melody line only.



Found in all sorts of music
but often used in...

- Gregorian Chant
- Folk music

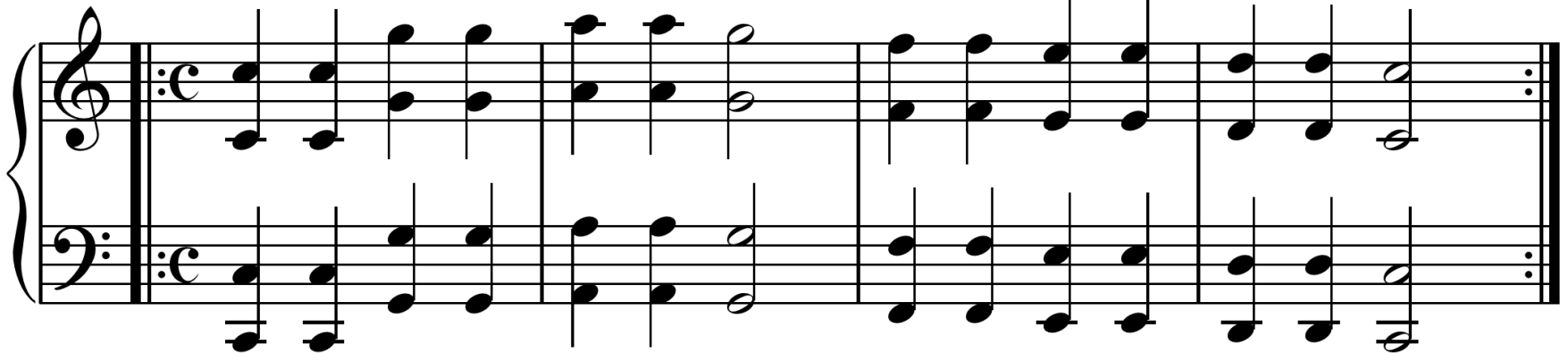


There can be more than one person singing or playing as long as they are singing/playing the same melody in unison or octaves.

Octaves

“Oct” = “Eight” (8 notes apart)

Definition: The same melody is played simultaneously in different pitches 8 notes apart.



Found in all sorts of music but often used in...

- Vocal music
- Orchestral music
- Piano music

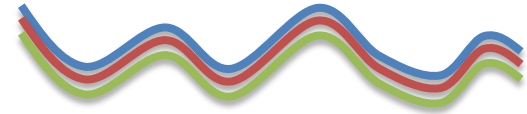


Listen out for thickened versions of a melody, particularly amongst instruments or voices with differing or multiple ranges.

Unison

“Uni” = “One”

Definition: One melody is performed by multiple voices or instruments simultaneously at the SAME pitch.



2 Harpes.

Triangle.

Cymbales.

Tambour.

Tambour de Basque.

Très animé et avec beaucoup d'entrain. (♩ = 152)

1^{ers} Violons.

2^{ds} Violons.

Altos.

Violoncelles.

Found in nearly every kind of music for various uses...

- Gives a theme importance
- Simplistic
- Avoids harmonic clashes
- Contrasts with harmonic writing



Listen out for thickened versions of a melody, but make sure they are at the SAME pitch, therefore similar voices or instruments.

Homophonic

"homo" + "phonic" = "homophonic"
"same" + "sound" = "same sounds"

Definition: All parts moving together as chords or melody and chordal accompaniment.



Choir

Alto Saxophone

Piano



Found in most western styles...

- Modern (pop/rock/jazz/blues etc)
- Classical

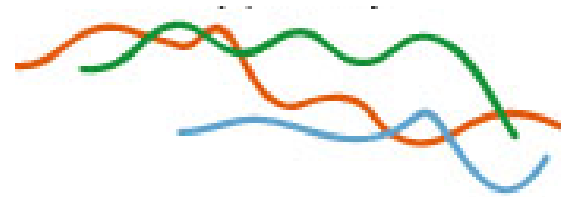


Remember: Piano/guitar isn't the only way to play a chordal accompaniment! A group of instruments can form chords together, e.g. a string section, brass band or choir.

Polyphonic

"poly" + "phonic" = "polyphonic"
"many" + "sound" = "many sounds"

Definition: Music that contains two or more melodic lines simultaneously.



Trumpet in B \flat

Trombone



Polyphony shows up in lots of music...

- Classical
- Musical Theatre
- Pop

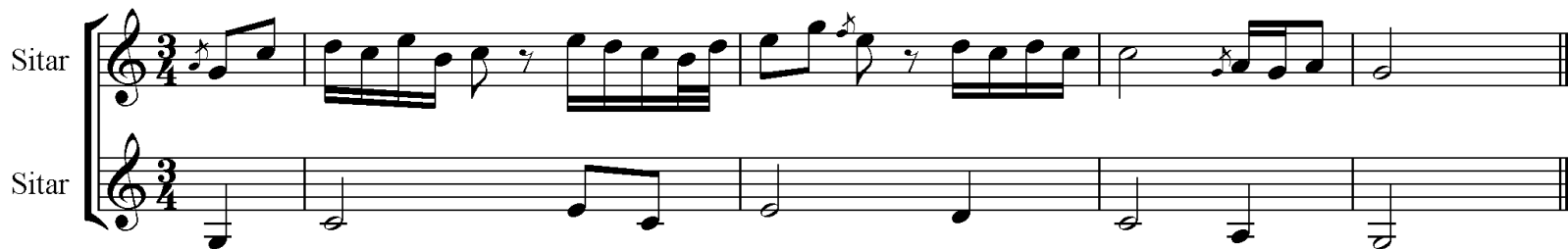
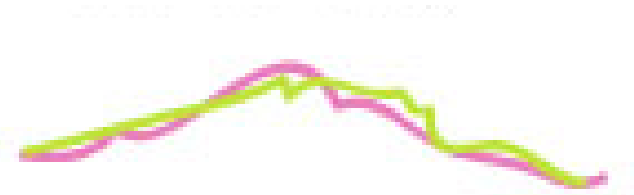


Canons and rounds create a polyphonic texture too as the lines interweave. The layers are independent, they are not supporting the main melody.

Heterophonic

“hetero” + “phonic” = “heterophonic”
“different” + “sound” = “different sound”

Definition: The simultaneous performance of two or more slightly different versions of the same melody.



Almost always in Non-Western music...

- Bluegrass “Mountain Music”
- Indian, North American, Indonesian.



The melody could be varied in rhythm, tempo, or have added embellishments using ornamentation such as trills, acciaccaturas, turns.

Imitative



Definition: The melody copied in another part.

Violin 1

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

The image shows a musical score for four instruments: Violin 1, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The time signature is 3/4. The Violin 1 part starts with a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The other three instruments (Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass) enter in the second measure, playing a similar melody of quarter notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3. This illustrates the concept of imitative counterpoint.



Often heard in...

- Baroque counterpoint by Bach, Vivaldi, Handel



Listen out for the main theme/motif cropping up in different parts, it could be passed around the different sections of the orchestra or used in a fugue passage.