

SONORITY...

is all about the quality of sounds in music – the types of voices, instruments and technology and how they are used.

Percussion: Timpani, Drum Kit, Snare Drum, Cymbal, Hand Held Percussion, Glockenspiel, Xylophone, Tabla, Dhol

- Rim shot** – when the rim and head of the drum are hit at the same time.
- Drum roll** – beats played in a rapid succession.

Brass: Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba

- Muted** – when mutes are used to ‘dampen’ the sound.

Woodwind: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon

- Slurred** – joining notes ‘smoothly’.
- Tongued** – notes are separated, sounding ‘defined’.

Voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass

- A cappella** – without accompaniment.
- Humming** – vocal sound made with closed mouth.
- Syllabic** – one note for each syllable.
- Melismatic** – each syllable has a number of notes.
- Vibrato** – rapid, slight variation in pitch.
- Falsetto** – male voice in a higher range than usual.
- Belt** – lower, more powerful part of voice range.
- Rap** – words spoken in a rhythmical way.
- Scat** – jazz singing, no words or nonsense words.
- Backing vocals** – singers providing extra harmonies.

Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Harp

- Pizzicato** – ‘plucked’.
- Double stopping** – one instrument playing 2 notes at the same time.
- Tremolo** – rapid bowing to give a dramatic effect.
- Divisi** – 2 parts in the same musical line.
- Arco** – ‘bowed’.
- Mutes** – used to ‘dampen’ the sound.

Guitars: Classical / Spanish, Electric + Bass guitars, Sitar, Saranga, Tumbi

- Distortion** – effect which ‘distorts’ notes.
- Hammer-on** – finger brought down sharply on a string.
- Slap bass** – bouncing strings against the fret board.
- Pitch bend** – altering pitch of a note very slightly.

Keyboards: Piano, Organ, Harpsichord

