

## The key features of music

Use these questions to analyse any musical work.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Composer \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the melody and harmony. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the rhythm, time signature and tempo. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the tonality and structure? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the sonority. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the texture. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the dynamics. \_\_\_\_\_

**Melody** Can move in steps (conjunct) or leaps (disjunct), or feature patterns or scales.

**Harmony** What is the chord structure? Is it diatonic? Cadences?

**Rhythm, time signature and tempo** Look out for features such as syncopation, dotted rhythms and simple or compound time.

**Tonality** Major or minor – or possibly modal or atonal (without key).

**Structure** Such as binary (A B), ternary (A B A), rondo (A B A C A) or theme and variations, etc.

**Sonority** The orchestration, articulation (staccato, legato, accents) and timbre (type of sound).

**Texture** Monophonic (one line), homophonic (several parts moving together) or polyphonic (different parts moving independently).

**Dynamics** Loud (*forte*), quiet (*piano*), getting louder (*crescendo*) and getting quieter (*decrescendo*).



The award-winning *PianoTrainer* series: **The Foundation Pianist, The Intermediate Pianist and The Advanced Pianist** books are published by Faber Music. Available from all good retailers and online.