

Elements of Music



MUSICAL ELEMENTS:

Rhythm: Rhythm refers to patterns of long and short sounds. Rhythm organizes sound into recognizable sequences.

Beat: The beat is a steady pulse that continues throughout a piece of music. The beat can often be felt by tapping or clapping at regular intervals.

Pitch: Pitch refers to how high or low a sound is. Pitch is determined by the frequency of vibration.

Tone: Pitch refers to how high or low a sound is. Pitch is determined by the frequency of vibration.

Who we are

Equal Notes is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2024 to expand equitable access to music education for all students around the world. Grounded in the belief that music fosters confidence, creativity, discipline, and connection, Equal Notes works to reduce financial and structural barriers that limit participation in instrumental learning. Through mentorship, beginner instruction, and increased access to instruments, the organization seeks to ensure that all students have the opportunity to experience the educational and personal benefits of music.

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Equal Notes



Foundations of Music

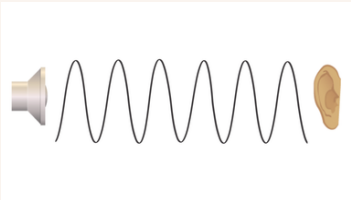


**Sound • Rhythm •
Instruments**

Sound

Q: What is Sound?

Sound is produced when an object vibrates. Vibrations travel through the air as sound waves.



Examples of Vibration

- a string moving back and forth
- air moving through a tube
- a surface being struck
- a stretched material being plucked

Sound has characteristics

- loud or soft depending on the strength of vibration
- long or short depending on how long the vibration continues
- smooth or sharp depending on how the sound begins and ends



Strings + Woodwinds

String Family

String instruments create sound when strings vibrate. Strings may be bowed, plucked, or struck. The length and thickness of a string affect pitch.

Examples may include violin, viola, cello, double bass, guitar



Woodwind Family

Woodwind instruments create sound when air vibrates inside a tube. Pitch changes when the length of the vibrating air column changes.

Examples may include flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone



Brass + Percussion

Brass Family

Brass instruments create sound when air vibrates through buzzing lips into a mouthpiece. Pitch changes through air speed and the use of valves or slides.

Examples may include trumpet, trombone, tuba, french horn



Percussion Family

Percussion instruments create sound when struck, shaken, or scraped. Some percussion instruments produce definite pitch, while others produce rhythmic sound without specific pitch.

Examples may include snare drum, bass drum, xylophone, triangle, tambourine, piano

