

Accent

The emphasis on a beat resulting in that beat being louder or longer than another in a measure.

ABA

The American Bandmasters Association was formed in 1929 by Edwin Franko Goldman (1878 - 1956) to promote concert band music.

The Association's Constitution (March 8, 1998) states that the organization shall:

- honor outstanding achievement by invitation to membership;
- work for progress toward an international band instrumentation
- encourage prominent composers of all countries to write for the concert band;
- by example and leadership further enhance the concert band and its music within our cultural heritage

Arrangement

Any piece of music based on or incorporating pre-existing material.

Bandmaster

The master, leader, or director of a band.

Baton

A slender wooden stick or rod used by a conductor to direct an orchestra or band.

Bitonality

The use of two different keys (relationship of tones) at the same time.

Brass Band

A musical group generally consisting of entirely brass instruments, most often with a percussion section.

CBDNA

The College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) began its existence as a committee of the Music Educators National Conference (MENC). CBDNA members are devoted to the study, teaching, and performance of music, with a particular focus on music created for the numerous kinds of wind bands found throughout today's musical landscape.

Chaconne

Musical form whose primary feature involves variation on a repeated short harmonic progressions.

Circus Music

Circus music is any sort of music that is played to accompany a circus, as well as music written that emulates its general style. The most common type of circus music is the circus march, or screamer, which are marches played at very fast tempos.

Concert Band

Also called a wind band, symphonic band, or wind ensemble, the concert band is a performing ensemble generally consisting of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Its various repertoire include original wind compositions, arranged classical items, light music and popular tunes.

Commission

A specific piece of music that a composer agrees to write for a patron or an organization, separate from the composer's more general long-term composing, performing, or educating responsibilities.

Corps of Drums

Type of Military Band, which originated in European armies in the 16th century, composed of drums and flutes or fifes.

Counter melody

An accompany melody sounded against the principle melody.

Dargason

English folk-tune, used from the 16th century onwards for a country dance or as a ballad tune.

Dynamics

Element of musical expression relating to volume, of a sound. Dynamic markings are traditionally given in Italian and abbreviated; common markings include “p” piano (soft); “mp” mezzo-piano (moderately soft); “mf” mezzo-forte (moderately loud), “f” forte (loud).

Fantasia

A musical composition with its roots in the art of improvisation, seldom following the rules of any strict musical form.

Folk Music

Music that is learned by oral transmission and is easily sung or played by most people; may exist in variant forms.

Form

The structure or shape of a musical work, based on repetition, contrast and variation; the organizing principle in music.

Harmony

The simultaneous combination of notes and the ensuing relationships of intervals and chords.

Instrumentation

The term instrumentation refers to the prescribed group of instruments needed to perform a musical work. Not all compositions are composed for full band instrumentation. Composers may choose to omit or add instruments to achieve a desired sound or effect.

Intermezzo

Short, lyric piece or movement, often for piano.

Libretto

Text, or script, of an opera.

March

A style incorporating characteristics of military music, including strongly accented beats in simple, repetitive rhythmic patterns.

Marziale

March music or music with a military feeling.

Melody

Sequence of musical tones perceived as a single entity, much like the way we hear the words in a sentence as an entire thought.

Military Band

Historically, a band comprising both brass and woodwind instruments. In America, the term “Military Band” refers literally to bands that are employed by the services. They represent the United States at events, functions, rallies, and serve an educational purpose for the nation

MENC

Originally named the Music Educators National Conference, now called “MENC: The National Association for Music Education.” The world’s largest arts education organization and the only association that addresses all aspects of music education. More than 142,000 members and supporters represent all levels of teaching from preschool to graduate school. Since 1907, MENC has worked to ensure that every student has access to a well-balanced, comprehensive, and high-quality program of music instruction taught by qualified teachers.

Motif

A perceivable recurring fragment or succession of notes that may be used to construct the entirety or parts of complete melodies and themes.

Movement

Complete, self-contained part within a larger musical work.

Neo-classicism

A 20th century development, particularly popular in the period between the two World Wars, in which composers drew inspiration from music of the Classical and Baroque periods (Western classical music composed between 1600-1825).

Opera

Music drama that is generally sung throughout, combining the resources of vocal and instrumental music with poetry and drama, acting and pantomime, scenery and costumes.

Operetta

Type of light opera with a frivolous, sentimental story, often employing parody and satire and containing both spoken dialogue and much light, pleasant music.

Opus

The term, meaning “work,” is used by composers to show the chronological order of their works, e.g. Op. 1, Op. 2.

Orchestration

The technique of setting instruments in various combinations.

Piano Roll

A music storage medium, it is a roll of paper containing perforations such that air passing through them actuates the keys of a player piano.

Polyrhythm

The simultaneous use of several rhythmic patterns or meters, common in 20th century music and in certain African music.

Prelude

Instrumental work intended to precede a larger work.

Ragtime

Late nineteenth century piano style created by African-Americans, characterized by highly syncopated melodies; also played in ensemble arrangements. Contributed to early jazz styles.

Royal College of Music

Founded in 1882, the Royal College of Music enjoys a reputation as one of the world's leading conservatoires, providing specialized musical education and professional training at the highest international level for performers, conductors and composers.

Scherzo

A sprightly humorous instrumental musical composition or movement.

Suite

Multimovement work made up of a series of contrasting dance movements.

Symphony

Large work for orchestra, generally in three or four movements.

Tempo

Rate of speed or pace of music. Tempo markings are traditionally given in Italian; common markings include grave (solemn; very, very slow); largo (broad; very slow); adagio (quite slow); andante (a walking pace); moderato (moderate); allegro (fast; cheerful); vivace (lively); presto (very fast); accelerando (getting faster); ritardando (getting slower); and a tempo (in time; returning to the original pace).

Thorough-Composed

Adjective describing music that is relatively continuous, non-sectional, and/or non-repetitive.

Toccata

Virtuoso composition, generally for organ or harpsichord, in a free and rhapsodic style; in the Baroque music, it often served as the introduction to a fugue.

Transcription

An arrangement of a musical composition that was previously unnotated.

