**Music, Term 5**

**Unit 201ta Musical Knowledge**

**Task 2 – Recognise and Discuss Key Musical Elements (approx. 1000 words)**

This week, we are focusing on **tonality.**

**Tonal music is music which uses the notes of the major or minor scale – therefore it is in a particular ‘key’ (e.g. C Major). Nearly all Western music is tonal.**

**Tonality (approx. 150 words – 75 per piece)**

Choose **2** contrasting pieces of music/songs from different genres (they do not have to contain lyrics) and analyse the ‘tonality’. Try and choose pieces that are in a different key and if possible, one in a major and one in a minor key.

Consider the following (these are all examples – you do not necessarily need to write about each point):

* What key is your song in?

e.g. The rock song ‘Livin’ on a Prayer ‘ by Bon Jovi (released in 1986) begins in E minor, however, we do hear the use of the chord G major during the chorus.

* If your music/song changes key, what key does it modulate (change) to and can you note at what point in the song this happens?

e.g. There is a key change towards the end of the song, prior to the final chorus. This happens at approximately 3 minutes 23 seconds into the song when the music modulates to G minor (an increase of a minor third).This creates excitement and adds momentum to the music.

* Do you know the chord progression used in the song? Can you find a similar song from the same genre and compare the chord progression?

e.g. The chord progression used in the verse is I-VI-VII (1-6-7) followed by a pre-chorus progression of VI-VII-I (6-7-1). This is not a particularly common progression. A similar song from this genre is ‘Sweet Child O’ Mine’ by Guns and Roses (released in 1987) however, this song has a completely different chord progression of I, VII, IV, I (1, 7, 4, 1).

* What effect does the tonality have on the listener? What emotion does it evoke?

e.g. The minor key is reflective of the lyrics of the verse, which are rather downhearted. In contrast, the use of the G major chord in the chorus gives an uplifting feel to the song (this chord is played over the powerful ‘Whoah!’ lyric).

You will need to do some research to find out what key your song is in and what chord progression is used etc. Remember, you are **not** comparing the pieces, you are simply discussing the tonality of each piece. You may use internet searches to assist with your research, however, all work MUST be written in your own words

Enjoy!