

Level 2 – Year 9 – Knowledge Organiser

Unit 201ta: Musical Knowledge

What is Musical Knowledge?

Musical Knowledge is the information about music that allows you discuss key elements of music as a Musician. This knowledge is vital for ALL areas on the music industry.

It is substantially important for learners, as if you have the ability to articulate what you are playing, you are 10x more capable of being able to improve your own instrument. Students will also benefit from having the ability to discuss music in a professional and accurate manner with other musicians.

It is essentially the language of Music.

Unit Introduction:

The ability to articulate the key features of a Musical Style and a piece of Music from that style. Learners are expected to demonstrate the ability to discuss the key features of a Musical Style, such as: The factors that influenced its inception, Significant Artists, Important Recordings/Performances/Events & Imagery and Fashion associated with the style.

This unit is designed to give students to the ability to discuss Music in an academic manner.

Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Identify and describe contrasting musical styles.
- 2) Recognise and Discuss key musical elements.

Key Words:

Tonality

Tempo

Instrumentation

Lyrical Content

Production Techniques

BPM

Musical Style

Musical Elements

Examples of ways you can articulate Musical Knowledge:

Tonality: The tonality of ‘Smoke On The Water’ is Minor. This can be seen in the Minor third interval used in the opening guitar riff.

Tempo: The tempo of the song “Music Sounds Better With You” is 128BPM (Beats Per Minute). This is a typical tempo of ‘House’ music.

Instrumentation: The instrumentation of “Someone You Loved” is: Vocals & Piano. This is an effective instrumentation for a Ballad style song.

Lyrical Content: The lyrical content of Notorious B.I.G’s “Juicy” is based on his experiences before he became successful. It is almost a reminiscence of what his life was like before he became a world-renowned rapper.

Production Techniques: The Guitar Riff in “Come As You Are” by Nirvana is heavily coated with the Chorus effect. The chorus effect somehow makes the music sound like it is being played underwater, which is intriguing for listeners when they hear the music.