

# Listening and Appreciating – African Music

## Vocabulary

arpeggio	three notes of a scale
bass clef 	Notes around the middle C and lower (below middle C)
flat 	a musical tone that is half a step lower in pitch than another
heterophonic	when two or more people play or sing the same melody, but they each do it a little differently
homophonic	when there is one main melody and the other parts (voices or instruments) support it by playing chords or simple background music
layers of sound	the combination of multiple sounds to create one more complete sound
lyrics	the words within a song
monophonic	when there is only one melody and nothing else playing with it – just a single tune
music pattern	a repeated or reoccurring sequence of notes
polyphonic	when there are two or more different melodies being played or sung at the same time, and they all fit together
rest	a symbol that indicates silence for a specific duration
sharp 	a musical tone that is a half-step higher in pitch than another
tempo	how fast or slow a piece of music is
texture	the different sounds and instruments working together

## African Music

African music is a rich tapestry of rhythms, melodies, and harmonies deeply rooted in cultural traditions, often blending drums, vocals, and indigenous instruments to convey stories, history, and community life. It embraces both ancient forms and modern genres, influencing global music from jazz to Afrobeats.



## Tempo



## Rests



Rests play a key part in creating and maintaining the rhythm, melody and they also help musicians play their instruments, as they allow them to catch their breath.

## Lyrics

The lyrics in African music always link to one of the following topics:

- storytelling and history
- social commentary and protest
- praise and celebration
- spiritual and religion
- call-and-response structure

## Layers of Sound



