

# Potentially Useful Words

## (Volume One)

- *The “Phonics”*
  - Monophonic: a melody without accompaniment (unison or doubled at the octave). Voices and instruments on the same melody are still monophonic
  - Heterophonic: like monophonic, except that the individual performers interpret the melody differently, through expression or, more often, ornamentation.
  - Polyphonic or “counterpoint”: “more than one melody.” The question to ask is “are both parts really melodies.”
  - Homophonic: 1) all of the voices move in the same rhythm, creating a uniform harmony. 2) A single melody supported by a weaker accompaniment.
- Imitation: when a melody or motif repeats its self, usually in another part.
- Canon: a melody that repeats after a certain length of time (like a round)
- Motif: a short musical idea or melodic fragment used to create a larger work (think the beginning of Beethoven 5)
- Sequence: a melodic idea that repeats in a higher or lower pitch center. It has to happen immediately to be a sequence.
- Diatonic: melodies or intervals that come from a scale or mode (all scales come from the major one, you know).
- Chromatic: melodies and intervals that come from the chromatic scale

- Counter melody: an accompanying melody against the principal melody (the piccolo solo in Stars and Stripes)
- Melodic variation terms
  - Inversion: upside down
  - Retrograde: backward
  - Retrograde Inversion: backward and upside down
  - Augmentation: bigger or longer
  - Diminution: smaller or shorter
- Polyrhythmic: more than one rhythm at the same time, usually of different subdivisions (say eighth notes and triplets happening simultaneously)
- Multimetric: different time signatures within a piece
- Conjunct: step wise motion
- Disjunct: moving by large intervals or skips
- Phrase: a musical idea (think a comma or period)
- Cadence: a musical period – four types; authentic (V-I), plagal (IV-I), deceptive (V-? – usually vi) and half (?-V – usually I).
- Melodic descriptors
  - Lyrical
  - Folksong-like
  - Cantabile (singing)
  - Ornamented
- Orchestration: the use of instruments or voices in a piece
- Meter: duple, triple or quadruple. Also compound or simple.