

Key concepts

Changing the timbre of the voice helps characterisation.

Different instrumental sounds can be used to represent a character.

A phrase is a short part of a musical story.

You can clap the rhythmic patterns of spoken phrases.

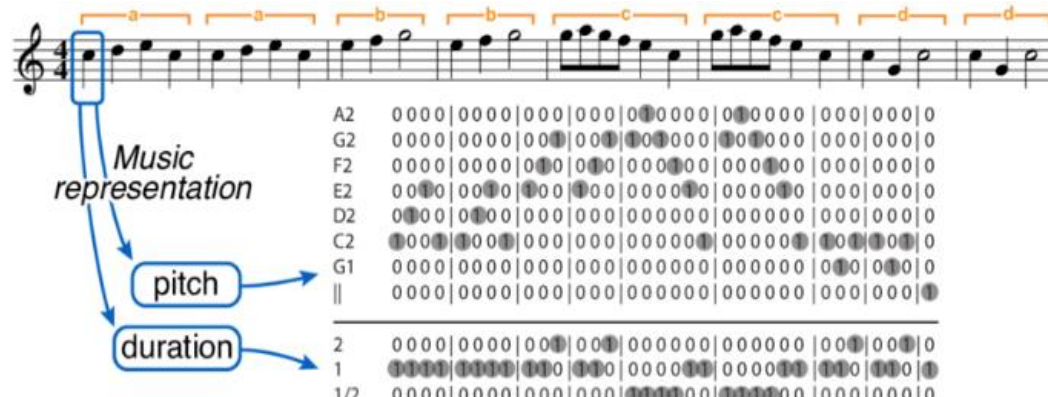
Voices and other instruments, pitch, duration, tempo and dynamics can be used to tell a story.

Telling a Story through Music

Music is often used as a narrative device to tell a story. This practice has a long history, going back through operas, epics, poetry, and even to ancient Greece.

First, the musical phrases sound unresolved (like a question), and are then resolved (answered).

A visual representation of the nursery rhyme 'Brother John' through music.



The diagram illustrates the relationship between musical notation and a visual representation of pitch and duration. The musical notation at the top shows a melody in G-clef, 4/4 time. Below it, a series of letters (A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, G1, ||) and numbers (2, 1, 1/2) represent the pitch and duration of each note. A blue box labeled 'Music representation' points to the musical notation. A blue box labeled 'pitch' points to the letters. A blue box labeled 'duration' points to the numbers.

| Letter | Duration | Notes |
|--------|----------|-------|
| A2 | 0000 | 0000 |
| G2 | 0000 | 0000 |
| F2 | 0000 | 0000 |
| E2 | 0000 | 0000 |
| D2 | 0000 | 0000 |
| C2 | 0000 | 0000 |
| G1 | 0000 | 0000 |
| | 0000 | 0000 |
| 2 | 0000 | 0000 |
| 1 | 0000 | 0000 |
| 1/2 | 0000 | 0000 |

Key Vocabulary

| | |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| timbre | The character or quality of a musical sound or voice |
| rhythm | Music's pattern in time. |
| phrase | A short unit of music that has a stand-alone meaning. |
| recite | Repeat aloud, from memory, to an audience. |
| perform | Present to an audience. |
| pitch | How high or low a note is. |
| duration | How long or short a note is. |
| tempo | Refers to the speed of the music. |
| dynamics | Describes how loud or quiet music is (volume). |
| opera | A form of theatre in which music takes the leading role. |
| epic | Music that evokes a definite mood. |

Things to do at home

Clap out the rhythm of different nursery rhymes (don't say the words!)
Can anybody guess which rhyme you are clapping?

