

Foundational Terminology

Form - the organization, placement, or relationship of the basic musical elements (melody, harmony, rhythm, dynamics, etc.)

Style - a combination of all the elements of music (including form) that characterizes a type of music (e.g., jazz, pop, rap, etc.) a time period (e.g., Baroque, Classical, contemporary), or a composer, (e.g., Bach, Beethoven, McCartney)

Genre - a category of music. (e.g., opera, song, symphony)

Aesthetics - the branch of philosophy dealing with such notions as the beautiful, the ugly, the sublime, the comic, etc., as applicable to the fine arts, with a view to establishing the meaning and validity of critical judgments concerning works of art, and the principles underlying or justifying such judgments.

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Symmetry -

1. the correspondence in size, form, and arrangement of parts on opposite sides of a plane, line, or point; regularity of form or arrangement in terms of like, reciprocal, or corresponding parts.
2. the proper or due proportion of the parts of a body or whole to one another with regard to size and form; excellence of proportion.
3. beauty based on or characterized by such excellence of proportion.

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Balance - composition or placement of elements of design, as figures, forms, or colors, in such a manner as to produce an aesthetically pleasing or harmoniously integrated whole.

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Golden Ratio - in mathematics and the arts, two quantities are in the golden ratio if the ratio of the sum of the quantities to the larger quantity is equal to the ratio of the larger quantity to the smaller one. The golden ratio is an irrational mathematical constant, approximately 1.6180339887. Other names frequently used for the golden ratio are the **golden section** and **golden mean**.

Livio, Mario (2002). *The Golden Ratio: The Story of Phi, The World's Most Astonishing Number*

