

MUSIC · Y3–Y6

# Melody & Harmony

Knowledge Organiser — Y3–Y6

## Key vocabulary

1

### Pitch

How high or low a note sounds. Pitch is determined by the frequency of vibration.

*Example: A4 = 440Hz*

2

### Scale

A set of notes arranged in ascending or descending order. The major scale sounds happy; the minor scale sounds sad.

*Example: C major: C D E F G A B C*

3

### Melody

A sequence of notes that form a recognisable tune. The part you hum.

4

### Harmony

When two or more notes are played together. Chords are the building blocks of harmony.

5

### Chord

Three or more notes played simultaneously. Major chords sound bright; minor chords sound darker.

*Example: C major: C + E + G*

6

### Interval

The distance in pitch between two notes. Named by counting scale steps.

*Example: C to E = a third; C to G = a fifth*



7

**Key**

The 'home base' of a piece — the note it returns to. Music in the key of C uses the notes of the C scale.

8

**Pentatonic scale**

A five-note scale. Sounds good on any instrument — great for improvisation.

*Example: C D E G A (C pentatonic)*

## Major vs minor

The simplest emotional difference

- MAJOR: sounds bright, happy, confident.
- MINOR: sounds darker, sadder, more mysterious.
- The difference between major and minor is just ONE note — the third note of the scale.
- C MAJOR: C D E F G A B C (E is natural — 4 semitones from C)
- C MINOR: C D Eb F G Ab Bb C (Eb is flattened — 3 semitones from C)
- TIP: hum 'Happy Birthday' (major) then 'Greensleeves' (minor) — feel the difference.
- Famous major: 'Happy Birthday', 'Twinkle Twinkle', 'Ode to Joy'
- Famous minor: 'Greensleeves', 'Für Elise', 'O Come O Come Emmanuel'

