



Theme and Variations - Knowledge Map

Year 8 – Term 1

Key vocabulary / concepts	What knowledge is required:
<i>Theme</i>	The original melody that is then changed slightly to create a variation.
<i>Variation</i>	The melody that is created once you have musically varied a theme. For example, you could change the theme's notes, tempo, rhythm or dynamic.
<i>Major</i>	<p>The major tonality is generally thought of as 'happy' and 'bright' sounding. Songs that give a happy message, tend to be in a major key.</p> <p>For example a C major scale (all the white notes on a piano from C-C) sounds happy:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">C Major</p> 
<i>Minor</i>	<p>The minor tonality is generally thought of as 'sad' and 'unhappy' sounding. Songs that give a sad message, tend to be in a minor key.</p> <p>For example, the added flats in this C minor key, makes it sound sad:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">C Natural Minor</p> 
<i>Tonality</i>	The character of a piece of music is related to its key centre of tonality. Tonal music is in a major or minor key. If a piece is not in a key it is called 'atonal'.
<i>Dynamics</i>	<p>How loud or quiet a piece of music is:</p> <div style="background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><i>pp</i> = pianissimo very soft</p> <p><i>p</i> = piano very soft</p> <p><i>mp</i> = mezzo piano moderately soft</p> <p><i>mf</i> = mezzo forte moderately loud</p> <p><i>f</i> = forte loud</p> <p><i>ff</i> = fortissimo very loud</p> </div>
<i>Flat</i>	<p>This symbol is put in front of a note to make it a semitone lower:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">b</p>
<i>Sharp</i>	<p>This symbol is put in front of a note to make it a semitone higher:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">#</p>
<i>Rhythm</i>	A combination of notes of different note lengths, to create an interesting

	pattern.
<i>Texture</i>	The layering of different musical parts.
<i>Instrumentation</i>	What instruments are playing in a piece of music.
<i>Tempo</i>	How fast or slow a piece of music is.
<i>Notes on the Staff (Treble Clef)</i>	<p>E G B D F</p> <p>F A C E</p>