

## The Elements of Music









Element	What to Listen for in Singing & Music
<b>Pitch</b>	Is the singer hitting the correct notes? Does the melody move high or low?
<b>Rhythm</b>	Are the notes performed in time with the beat? Can you tap along with a steady pulse?
<b>Dynamics</b>	How loud or soft is the singer? Do they use crescendos or decrescendos (gradual changes in volume)?
<b>Timbre</b>	Is the voice warm, bright, nasal, raspy, smooth? Listen to the unique tone quality.
<b>Texture</b>	Is the music just one melody (monophonic), or are there harmonies and multiple layers (polyphonic)?
<b>Harmony</b>	Are there harmonies accompanying the melody? Do the harmonies clash or sound pleasant together?
<b>Structure</b>	Is there a clear verse-chorus-verse structure, or something more complex?
<b>Tempo</b>	Is the song fast, slow, or in between? Does it change speed (accelerando, ritardando)?

## Singing Techniques

Technique	Explanation
<b>Breath Control</b>	The ability to manage your breath to support long phrases and sustain notes.
<b>Posture</b>	Standing or sitting with good alignment for optimal sound production.
<b>Pitch Accuracy</b>	Singing in tune and matching the correct pitch.
<b>Vocal Range</b>	The span of notes you can sing comfortably, from low to high.
<b>Projection</b>	Making your voice loud enough to be heard without straining.
<b>Diction</b>	Clear pronunciation of lyrics.
<b>Vibrato</b>	A slight, regular fluctuation in pitch that adds warmth and expression.
<b>Dynamics Control</b>	Adjusting the loudness or softness of your singing for expressive effect.
<b>Blending</b>	Singing in harmony with other voices to create a unified sound.
<b>Warm-ups</b>	Exercises like humming, scales, and lip trills to prepare your voice.

# SINGING THROUGH THE DECADES KO

## Music Notation Symbols

Symbol	Name	What it Means
	Treble Clef	Indicates the pitch of the written notes (higher range).
	Bass Clef	Indicates the pitch of the written notes (lower range).
	Crotchet	One beat of sound.
	Quaver	Half a beat of sound.
	Semi-quavers	Two eighth notes connected, also half a beat each.
	Crotchet Rest	One beat of silence.
	Time Signature	Tells how many beats are in each measure and what kind of note gets one beat.
	Repeat Sign	Indicates that a section of music is to be repeated.

## Singing Voice Types

Voice Type	Description	Examples	Common Characteristics
<b>Soprano</b>	The highest female voice type.	Julie Andrews, Ariana Grande	Bright and clear sound, can sing high notes well.
<b>Mezzo-Soprano</b>	A middle-range female voice, not as high as soprano but higher than alto.	Adele, Beyoncé	Rich, warm tone; good at singing both high and lower notes.
<b>Alto</b>	The lowest female voice type.	Amy Winehouse, Alicia Keys	Deep and resonant; sings lower notes comfortably.
<b>Tenor</b>	The highest male voice type.	Luciano Pavarotti, Shawn Mendes	Strong and bright; can reach higher notes with clarity.
<b>Baritone</b>	A middle-range male voice, lower than tenor but higher than bass.	Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra	Warm and full sound; comfortable in both middle and lower range.
<b>Bass</b>	The lowest male voice type.	Barry White, Johnny Cash	Deep and resonant; sings very low notes.
<b>Child Voice</b>	Refers to the voice of children, which can be like soprano or mezzo-soprano depending on the age and maturity.	Aled Jones (younger), Paul Miles-Kingston	Lighter and higher pitch; not fully developed.

## Singing Warm-Up Routine

- 1. Posture Check:** Stand with feet hip-width apart, shoulders relaxed.
- 2. Breathing Exercise:** Inhale deeply, filling your diaphragm. Exhale slowly on a hiss.
- 3. Lip Trills:** Perform lip trills on different pitches to warm up the voice.
- 4. Sirens:** Glide smoothly from a low note to a high note and back down to loosen the vocal cords.
- 5. Scales:** Sing through scales on vowels (e.g., “ah,” “ee,” “oh”) to warm up for pitch accuracy.
- 6. Tongue Twisters:** Practice clear diction with phrases like “Red leather, yellow leather.”
- 7. Siren Warm-Down:** Return to sirens after singing to cool down your voice.

## Performance Tips

- 1. Expression:** Always sing with emotion to connect with the audience.
- 2. Confidence:** Stand tall and project your voice.
- 3. Eye Contact:** Engage with the audience by looking at them, not the floor.
- 4. Listen:** Pay attention to other singers or musicians to stay in tune and in time.
- 5. Practice Regularly:** Sing daily to improve technique and vocal strength.

## Singing Styles and Trends Across the Decades (1900-2020)

Decade	Key Singing Styles/Genres	Notable Singers	Significant Developments in Singing
1900-1910	Classical, Operatic, Vaudeville	Enrico Caruso, Sarah Bernhardt	Classical and operatic singers dominate, with an emphasis on trained, powerful voices. Vaudeville introduces diverse performance styles.
1910-1920	Blues, Early Jazz	Bessie Smith, Louis Armstrong	Blues singers bring a raw, emotional style; jazz vocals begin to emphasize improvisation and swing.
1920-1930	Jazz, Swing	Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald	The rise of jazz and swing introduces scat singing and more relaxed, conversational styles.
1930-1940	Swing, Big Band, Country	Bing Crosby, Jimmie Rodgers	Swing era highlights smooth, polished vocals. Country music introduces a more narrative, folk-influenced singing style.
1940-1950	Bebop, Rhythm and Blues (R&B)	Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles	Bebop's complex rhythms influence vocal phrasing. R&B introduces a gritty, emotional delivery.
1950-1960	Rock 'n' Roll, Doo-Wop	Elvis Presley, The Platters	Rock 'n' Roll singers bring dynamic, energetic performances. Doo-wop features harmonized vocals with catchy melodies.
1960-1970	Motown, Folk, Soul	Aretha Franklin, Bob Dylan	Motown singers highlight smooth, powerful vocals with rich harmonies. Folk music emphasises storytelling through vocal expression.
1970-1980	Disco, Punk, Soft Rock	Donna Summer, Patti Smith	Disco vocals are vibrant and energetic, while punk brings raw, rebellious singing. Soft rock features more polished, emotional delivery.
1980-1990	Pop, New Wave, Rap	Michael Jackson, Madonna	Pop vocals become highly produced and versatile. Rap introduces rhythmic, spoken delivery with lyrical focus.
1990-2000	Grunge, R&B, Hip-Hop	Kurt Cobain, Mariah Carey	Grunge features powerful, often anguished vocals. R&B and Hip-Hop showcase a mix of melodic singing and rhythmic speaking.
2000-2010	Indie, Emo, Pop Rock	Amy Winehouse, Adele	Indie and emo vocal styles focus on emotional authenticity and unique timbres. Pop rock combines catchy melodies with strong vocal performances.
2010-2020	EDM, Contemporary R&B, Indie Pop	Billie Eilish, Bruno Mars	EDM vocals often use autotune and electronic effects. Contemporary R&B highlights smooth, soulful singing. Indie pop features unique, experimental vocal styles.

## Assessment Focus

- 1. Pitch Accuracy:** Are you singing the correct notes?
- 2. Rhythm:** Are you in time with the music?
- 3. Expression:** Are you conveying emotion through dynamics and articulation?
- 4. Teamwork:** Can you sing in harmony and blend with others?
- 5. Understanding of Musical Elements:** Can you describe how tempo, dynamics, and texture are used in the piece?