

Knowledge Organiser: WW2

Topic Background

In 1939, Germany invaded Poland and Britain declared war. During the six years Britain was at war, 1939–1945, life was hard. Food and clothing were rationed and in short supply. Constant bombing caused fear, death and destruction. Families were often separated due to evacuation and fathers going away to fight. Music played a crucial role in keeping citizens entertained, upbeat and informed about the war effort. Songs such as 'We'll Meet Again' by Vera Lynn restored an optimistic outlook for soldiers and families while uplifting Allied spirits during this time of hardship.

Listening Pieces

- God Save the King, Katherine Jenkins
- We'll Meet Again, Vera Lynn, 1939
- In the Mood, Glenn Miller, 1939
- Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree, The Andrews Sisters, 1942
- Leningrad, Symphony No. 7, Shostakovic, 1941
- Fanfare for the Common Man, Arron Copland, 1942

Musical Knowledge



Note Values

semibreve:
4 beats 'lo-o-o-ong'

minim:
2 beats 'lo-ong'

quaver:
1/2 beat 'shor'

paired quavers:
1 beat 'shor-ter'

four semiquavers:
1 beat 'e-ven shor-ter'

Rest Values

semibreve rest:
sits underneath the stave line

minim rest:
mounts on top of the stave line

crotchet rest

quaver rest

p quiet **piano** ***pp*** very quiet **pianissimo**
f loud **forte** ***ff*** very loud **fortissimo**

mp moderately quiet **mezzo piano** gradually getting quieter **decrescendo**
mf moderately loud **mezzo forte** gradually getting louder **crescendo**

Top Tips for Composing a Melody

- Finish on the tonic.
- Simple, repetitive idea.
- Add interest by moving a short melodic pattern up or down in pitch.
- Equal length lines.

Key Vocabulary

- accompaniment:** a musical part which supports a melody
- chord:** two or more notes played at the same time
- counter melody:** a second melody sung or played simultaneously with the main melody
- dynamics:** how loud or quiet a sound is
- harmonious:** the sound of two or more notes that are pleasing to listen to
- harmony:** the sound of two or more pitches performed together at the same time
- lyrics:** words that make up a song
- major:** a scale that sounds bright and cheerful
- melody:** the tune of the music made up of high and low pitches
- minor:** a scale that sounds sad
- phrasing:** indicates where the singer should breathe, connecting or grouping several notes or rhythms to create a sequence of sounds that sound pleasing
- pitch:** how high or low a sound is
- scale:** a set of musical notes ordered by pitch
- structure:** how a piece is organised
- tonic:** the first and last note on the scale. Often called the root note

C major (bright sounding scale)



C major chords

C major	F major	G major
G	C	D
E	A	B
C	F	G

D minor (sad sounding scale)



D minor chords

D minor	G minor	A minor
A	D	E
F	B ^b	C
D	G	A