

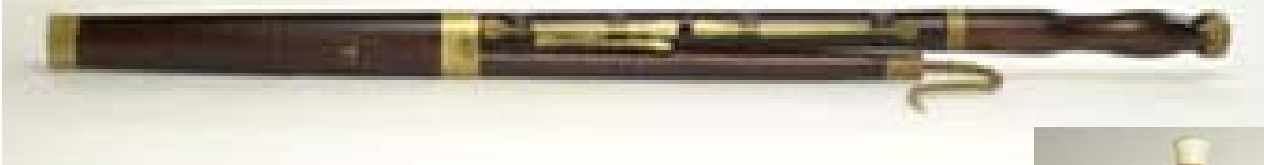


Violin



Harpsichord

Bassoon



Lute



Oboe





Claudio Monteverdi



George Frideric Handel



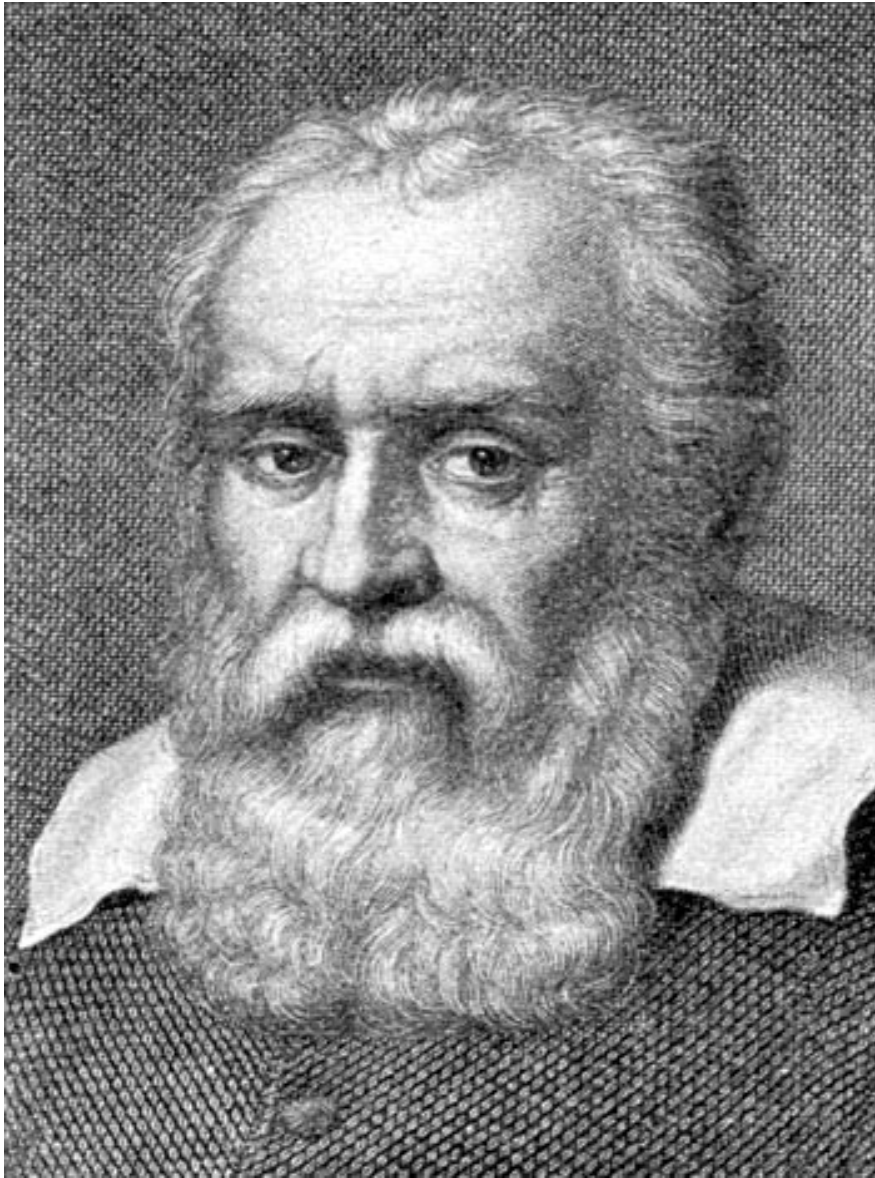
Jean-Baptiste Lully



Jean-Philippe Rameau



Henry Purcell



Galileo Galilei



Edmund Halley

## TEMPO

The Italian word for "time", *tempo* is the word for musical speed or pacing. If one were to walk along to the beat of the music, a normal walking speed would be a medium tempo. If you feel like you might need to break into a run, that would be a fast tempo, and if you find yourself dragging your feet, that is definitely a slow tempo! You may be familiar with other Italian words that musicians use to describe tempo like Allegro (fast and happy), Adagio (slow and at ease), Presto (very fast), Andante (walking tempo), and Grave (very slow). Baroque composers sometimes use these terms as well, but more often they give no tempo marking at all, or they give the names of a dance. Since dancing was so popular in those days, everyone knew that a Minuet was a graceful, medium tempo dance, but a Sarabande was much slower and Bourrées and Giges were quick and lively.

## DYNAMICS

This is the word that musicians use for the intensity of volume with which notes and sounds are expressed. A loud dynamic (musicians use the Italian word forte, pronounced fore-tay) would be like speaking in an outdoor voice. Very loud (fortissimo) would be shouting. If someone else would need to listen very carefully in order to hear you, you would be speaking softly (piano). Very soft (pianissimo) would be like whispering. A normal speaking voice would be medium loud (mezzo forte, pronounced met-zo fore-tay) or medium soft (mezzo piano).

## **AFFECT** (pronounced Ah-fect)

In Baroque music, this is the word for the emotion or character of a piece of music. Music can describe many feelings such as sadness, anger, hate, joy, love and jealousy. Composers use all of their musical skills to describe their own emotions, or those of others. They can try to write joyful, festive sounding music, or fearful, sneaky sounding music. Be creative in your descriptions of the composer's intentions! If a piece sounds sad, try to think of a more descriptive word - is it sad and tired? Sad and lonely? Sad and miserable? Sad and weepy? Sad and fed-up? How sad is it? Is it mournful? Tragic? Tortured? Gloomy?

## TEXTURE

The texture of music refers to who is playing and how many people are playing at the same time. A thin texture might be two oboes playing together. A thick texture would be a whole orchestra with many violins, violas, cellos, double bass, harpsichord, oboes and bassoons all playing together, with many of them playing different parts. Try to describe how many people are playing and what instruments they are playing.

## **EMOTIONAL RESPONSE**

This category is your own personal response to the music. There is no right or wrong answer here, and music can make you feel different things on different days. Your own personal response may mirror your answer in the Affect category, but it doesn't have to. If a composer writes a piece that is lighthearted and joyful, it may lift your spirits too! However, music affects us in different ways at different times. One day a piece that is noisy and fast and joyful might make you feel energized, but on another day you might be in a quiet and thoughtful mood, so it may make you feel annoyed and jittery. How does this piece of music make you feel right now?

## MAPLE

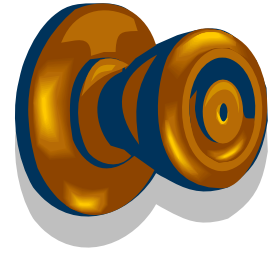


There are 125 varieties of maple trees are grown throughout the world, mostly in Asia, Europe and North America.

Maple is considered a “tonewood”, which means that it carries sound well, so many musical instruments are made from maple, such as stringed instruments like the violins, guitars, drums, lutes and bassoons. Some maple also has a beautiful decorative grain, know as “flame maple”. This is what makes the back of instruments like violins and cellos their characteristic “flamed” look. Sugar Maple trees, in addition to producing the sweet maple syrup that we love on pancakes, is also used to make bowling pins and bowling alley lanes, butcher’s blocks and sometimes baseball bats!

In Canada, the maple leaf is an important national symbol. Our national flag depicts a stylized maple leaf, and our favourite hockey team, the Toronto Maple Leafs was named after this tree as well.

The maple tree has medium brown wood, with bright green leaves that change to striking autumn shades when the weather turns cold. The genus name for maple is *acer* which is derived from a Latin word meaning “sharp” (referring to the characteristic points on the leaves).



## BRASS

Brass is an alloy (mixture) of two minerals, copper and zinc. Its gold-like appearance is relatively resistant to tarnishing, which makes it an ideal substance for decorations and coins. It is bright gold when freshly polished, but after a few days it changes to a slightly more reddish colour. Its acoustic properties make it a perfect material to use in musical instruments such as horns, trumpets, bells, and harpsichord strings. It is used to make locks, gears, screws, springs, bearings, ammunition, valves, and in plumbing and electrical equipment. The copper in brass makes it germicidal - brass doorknobs disinfect themselves of many bacteria within eight hours! This effect is very important in hospitals where bacteria can be dangerous to those who are ill

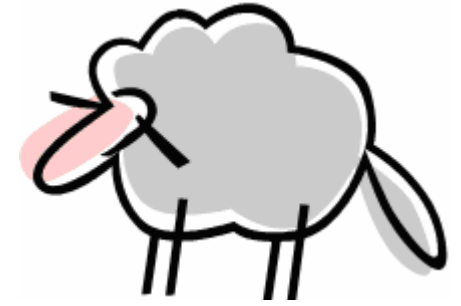
Brass has likely been known to humans since prehistoric times, and was produced by melting copper together with calamine, a zinc ore. In the German village of Breinigerberg (near Cologne), an ancient Roman settlement was discovered where a calamine ore mine existed. During the melting process, the zinc is extracted from the calamine and mixes with the copper.

Today almost 90% of all brass alloys are recycled. Because most brass is nonmagnetic, it can be separated from ferrous scrap by passing the scrap near a powerful magnet. Brass scrap is collected and transported to the foundry where it is melted and recast into billets. Billets are later heated and extruded into the desired form and size.

*Information Card: Why am I musical?*

## **SHEEP GUT (Sheep)**

Also called "Catgut"



The cords prepared from the intestines of sheep (sheep gut) are very tough and last a long time. Sometimes they are called "catgut", but they have nothing to do with cats. It comes from the word *kitgut* ("violin string"), *kit* being derived from the ancient word "kitara" the root of the modern word "guitar". Catgut also refers to the cords that come from the intestines of other animals like goats and pigs.

Sheep gut is used for the strings in harps, violins, and viols, as well as other stringed musical instruments. It is also used for bow-strings, hanging the weights of clocks, for suturing wounds in surgery, and in the past has been used to string tennis racquets.

To prepare sheep gut, the intestines are cleaned, freed from fat, and steeped for some time in water, after which their external membrane is scraped off with a blunt knife. They are then steeped for some time in an alkaline lye, smoothed and equalized by drawing out, and subjected to the antiseptic action of the fumes of burning sulphur. If necessary they are dyed, and then they are sorted into sizes and twisted together into cords of various numbers of strands according to their uses.



## IVORY

Ivory is a hard, white, opaque substance that comes from the teeth and tusks of animals such as the elephant, hippopotamus, walrus, mammoth and narwhal. The word "ivory" comes from the Ancient Egyptian word for "elephant", *âbu*.

Due to the rapid decline in the populations of elephants, buying and selling ivory was banned in many countries in 1989. Many African countries claim that ivory trade is necessary for their economies and reduce elephant populations which are allegedly harming the environment. A 1999 study done by Oxford University found that less than one percent of the sales generated from ivory sales ever reach Africans, as most of it goes to middlemen and vendors.

Ivory has both ornamental and practical uses. Prior to the introduction of plastics, it was used for billiard balls, piano keys, bagpipes, buttons and a wide range of ornamental items such as decorative pieces on musical instruments like oboes, modern bassoons, and the bows of stringed instruments like violins and cellos.

Trade in the ivory from the tusks of dead mammoths has occurred for 300 years and continues to be legal. Mammoth ivory is used today to make handcrafted knives and similar implements. Steven Marvin, a Toronto bow maker who specializes in baroque bows has made many bows for *Tafelmusik* string players using mammoth ivory that is over 11,000 years old.

## EBONY



Ebony is a tree native to India and Sri Lanka that is known for the heavy black, fine-grained wood in its centre. It is a medium-sized evergreen with full leaves and small berries.

Ebony has a long history of use, with carved pieces having been found in Ancient Egyptian tombs, and fine cabinets made for the luxury trade in late-16<sup>th</sup> century Europe. It is very valuable as an ornamental wood because of its high density, fine texture and ability to polish very smoothly.

Modern uses are largely restricted to small sizes, particularly in musical instrument making, including oboes, piano and harpsichord keys, violin, cello, and guitar and lute fingerboards, endpieces, pegs and chinrests. Traditionally, black piano and harpsichord keys were ebony, as were the black pieces in chess sets, with rare boxwood (the same wood that baroque oboes are made of) being used for the white pieces. Ebony can also be used for lace-making bobbins and handgun grips.

Ebony tree forests which once covered large areas in India and Sri Lanka have shrunk significantly due to rapid urbanization. The wood of ebony is used as firewood, as it can burn even in moist conditions. As a result of unsustainable harvesting, many species of ebony are now considered threatened.