

COMMON WORDS

COMMON WORDS TO HELP
YOU COMMUNICATE WITH
YOUR TEAM.

MUSIC AND SONGS

Transpose

To change the key of the song to another one, higher or lower than the current key. We transposed the song from B to G to make it easier to sing.

Octave

The eight notes in a scale. C to the next C on a keyboard for example. To play or sing an octave higher or an octave lower means you're singing the same notes but the register or pitch is different. See below.

Register

Register is the pitch of the notes. Certain instruments sound best in certain registers. In a band, it's important to play in complimentary registers. For example, bas would play in a lower register, guitar may play the middle register and piano may play a melody in a higher register.

Bar (or measure)

Bars are musical structures that help divide the music up. A song will have a number of bars. We can measure timing in a song by number of bars. For example, there are two bars of music before the chorus and the chorus is four bars long. In 4/4, if you count 4 beats, that would be one bars of 4 counts.

Riff

A riff is a short, often repeated chord progression, melody or line of music that forms one of the hooks of the song. One of more instruments may play the riff in certain parts of the song.

Tempo

Tempo is the speed of the song. Tempo is measured by beats per minute (bpm). This song is best played at 90 bpm.

Introduction

The opening piece of music in a song. Often contains the melody or a riff that makes it recognisable.

Verse

Verse is the part of the song that comes after the introduction and builds to the chorus. Sometimes followed by a pre-chorus. A song can have multiple verses that build on the theme of the song towards a common chorus.

Chorus

The chorus of a song holds the main message of the song. It follows the verse. There's usually only one chorus repeated after each verse but sometimes songs have more than one chorus, for variation.

Pre Chorus

Pre-chorus sometimes follows a verse and is a short build up to the chorus. A pre-chorus in a song would be the same throughout the song, after each different verse, always played before the chorus.

Bridge

The bridge is an additional part of a song, usually used to further the idea of the song. It has a different melody or chord structure to the verse and chorus.

Middle Eight

"Middle eight" is a type of bridge, used to further develop the song or break the verse chorus verse chorus pattern. Can be a musical interlude It's placed in the middle of a song and is usually 8 bars long.

Instrumental

A music-only piece in the song, usually over the chords of the chorus where. These are great opportunities for free worship.

Tag

A tag helps add additional thoughts to the song and further develop the idea, similar to the bridge but is placed at the end of the song. Tags will often have a different melody or chord structure to other parts of the song.

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Key (Key Signature)

The key or key signature lets you know which key the song is in and therefore which scale the melody will be derived from. The key comes from the key note (the first note) of the scale. The key of A or D for example.

Scale

An ordered set of notes that increase or decrease in pitch. Made of different "degrees" or notes referred to as tones or semitones.

Chord Sequence

The group of chords used in a song.

Dynamics

How loud and soft parts of the song are played.

Mood

How the song should be played. The feeling of the song. Joyful, sad etc.

Texture

The layers of sounds within a song.

Metronome

A device used to keep the timing of the song.

Click (click track)

Electronic version of the metronome, to help keep the tempo of the song.

Syncopation

Emphasizing the off or weaker beat of a piece of music.

GUITAR / BASS

Tone

The sound of the guitar. Tones can be described as warm, smooth, tinny, bright and many more. Tone is affected by many things like amps strings, fingers...

Frets (fretboard)

The frets are the metal pieces on the neck of the guitar that divide the strings into intervals. The higher up the neck you play, the higher the sound.

Capo

A clamping device that guitarists use to shorten the strings and get a higher sound or play in a different key while with different chords.

Pick / Plectrum

The plastic thing that always gets lost that guitarists use to pick single strings at a time or to get a crisper sound when strumming.

Strum

Playing all the strings at the same time in a rhythmic way.

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SINGERS

Melody

The main vocal melody of the song.

Harmony

Different but complimentary melody to the main melody.

Alto

The lower of the two common harmonies, the other being tenor. Alto also refers to the type of voice one has. Defined by the range you're able to sing.

Tenor

The higher of the two common harmonies usually sung by a male singer, the other being alto. Tenor also refers to the type of voice one has. Defined by the range you're able to sing.

Baritone

A lower vocal range (usually male), between tenor and bass.

Soprano

A higher vocal range (usually female).

Vox / Vocals

Vocals are sometimes referred to as vox.

BVs

BVs stands for Backing Vocals. Backing vocals usually sing harmonies while the leader sings the melody.

DRUMS

Kick

Kick is the drum the drummer plays with his foot, linked to a pedal. Responsible for carrying and defining the rhythm.

Snare

The snare is the white drum on the middle of the kit. The snare is the drum beat we clap on.

Rim shot

When the drummer uses the stick to hit the rim of the snare. Used in softer parts of the song or in certain styles of music, like African music.

Toms

Toms are used for fills and a rolling sound to big songs. A drummer can have any number of toms, including the floor tom.

Floor Tom

The biggest tom drum that stands on the floor.

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Overheads

Overheads are the cymbals or the mics used to pick up the cymbals.

Hats

The hats are the high hats. Played constantly through most beats.

Ride (cymbal)

The ride cymbal is a big cymbal often used in place of the hi hats in big choruses and in Jazz music.

Crash (cymbal)

A common type of cymbal used to emphasis the first beat of a song section.

SOUND

Cans

Cans is another name for headphones.

In-Ears

Earphones connected to an in-ear monitoring system that allows you to hear yourself play or sing.

Monitors

Speakers on stage that allow you to hear yourself play or sing.

Front of House (House)

"House" speakers or "front of house" is the name given to the main speakers in the venue.

Gain

Gain is another name for volume.

KEYS

Pads

A variety of sounds that allow for a continuous sound on the keyboard used to add texture and continuity between songs.

Lead

There are a variety of sounds for electronic music that are good for melodies. E.g. Saw Lead.

Sustain

To hold the note, often with the use of the pedal.