

Nebraska K-12 Fine Arts Standards: Music Glossary

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The terms in this glossary were chosen because they have specific meaning within the context of this standards document.

Arrangement	A piece of music rewritten using different parameters for a specific purpose. <i>FA 5.4.1.c, FA 8.4.1.d, FA 12.4.1.d</i>
Articulation	The manner in which individual notes or group of notes are attacked and released. <i>FA 8.4.2.a, FA 8.4.2.c, FA 12.4.2.c</i>
Arts	An expression or application of human creative skill and imagination that reflects aesthetic value. <i>FA 5.4.1.d, FA 8.4.1.e, FA 12.4.1.e, FA 5.4.2.d, FA 8.4.2.d, FA 12.4.2.d, FA 5.4.3.d, FA 8.4.3.d, FA 12.4.3.d</i>
Composition	The activity of creating original music. Compositions may range from short rhythmic patterns to longer works. This may include unwritten, written (traditional and/or non-traditional notation), or digital formats.
Compositional Devices	The tools used to create a music work including, but not limited to: repetition sequence, canon, inversion, and augmentation/diminution.
Elements of Music	The components of music activity including, but not limited to: pitch, rhythm, melody, harmony, dynamics, timbre, texture, and form. Sometimes referred to as music elements. <i>FA 8.4.1.a, FA 12.4.1.a, FA 5.4.1.c, FA 8.4.1.d, FA 12.4.1.d, FA 5.4.2, K-2 FA 2.4.3, FA 5.4.3, FA 8.4.3, FA 2.4.3.b, FA 5.4.3.b, FA 5.4.3.c</i>
Genres	Categories of music works characterized by similarities in form and style (e.g. jazz, march, gospel, opera, mariachi). <i>FA 8.4.2, FA 12.4.2</i>
Improvisation	The spontaneous creation and performance of music. <i>FA 5.4.1.a, FA 5.4.1.c, FA 8.4.1.d, FA 12.4.1.d</i>
Language of Music	Music theory and practice used to shape expressive properties of music that convey ideas and emotions. <i>FA 12.4.1</i>
Music Elements	The components of music activity including: pitch, rhythm, melody, harmony, dynamics, timbre, texture and form. Sometimes referred to as elements of music. <i>FA 2.4.2, FA 2.4.2.a</i>
Performance Expectations	Learned expectations for performing (e.g. stage presence, procedures, guidelines, and protocol). These expectations are dependent on the context of the performance.
Style	The combination of distinctive features unique to the performance of music. Historical, cultural, aesthetic, and other variables influence style (e.g. Classical vs. Romantic works, swing vs. Latin jazz)
Texture	The combination and interrelationship of music sounds interwoven in a music work.

For example, a thick texture contains multiple layers of instruments (e.g. a symphony orchestra).

FA 12.4.2.a, FA 12.4.3.c

Timbre

The character and quality of musical sound distinct from pitch and intensity. For example, when two different instruments (e.g. a trumpet and a clarinet) play the same pitch, their sounds are recognized as different because of their tone quality and character - their timbre.

FA 12.4.2.a

Note regarding movement in music:

Sound is the primary medium for artistic expression in music; movement is the primary medium for artistic expression in dance. The dance strands of the Nebraska Fine Arts Standards address movement. It is recognized that effective music instruction utilizes movement.