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## Elements of Music

(Definitions from California Visual and Performing Arts Framework,  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/documents/vpaframewrk.pdf>)

### **elements of music**

Melody, harmony, rhythm, and form and the expressive elements of dynamics, tempo, and timbre (tone color).

### **melody**

An organized sequence of single notes.

### **harmony**

The simultaneous sounding of two or more tones.

### **rhythm**

The combinations of long and short, even or uneven sounds that convey a sense of movement in time.

### **form**

The organization and structure of a composition and the interrelationships of musical events within the overall structure.

### **dynamics**

Varying degrees of volume in the performance of music.

### **tempo**

The pace at which music moves according to the speed of the underlying beat.

### **timbre**

Tone color or quality of sound heard.