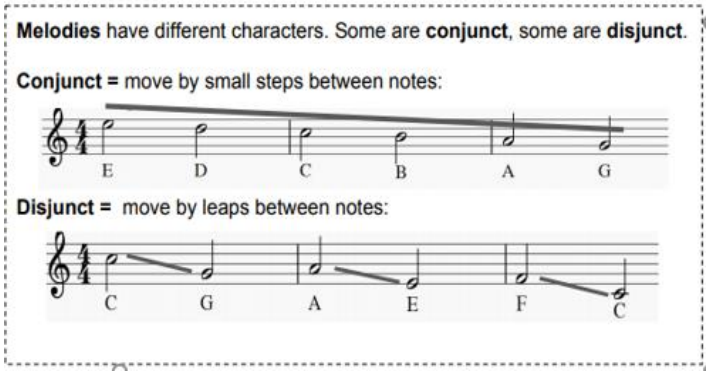
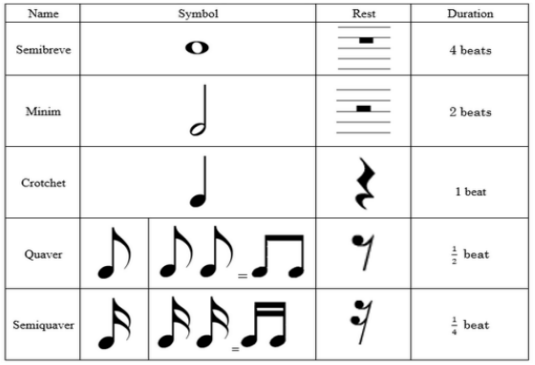
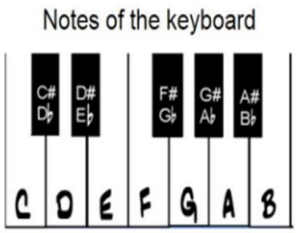
Spring| **Music**| Year 9– Minimalism

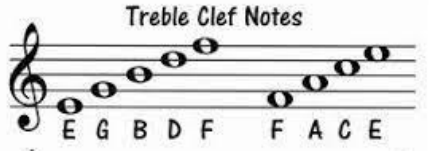
What is Minimalist music?

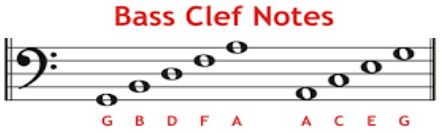
Minimalism is a form of art music that employs limited or minimal musical materials which are repeated. It originated in New York in the 19060s and was initially viewed as a form of experimental music. Famous composers from this period include Steve Reich, Terry Riley, Phillip Glass and La Monte Young.









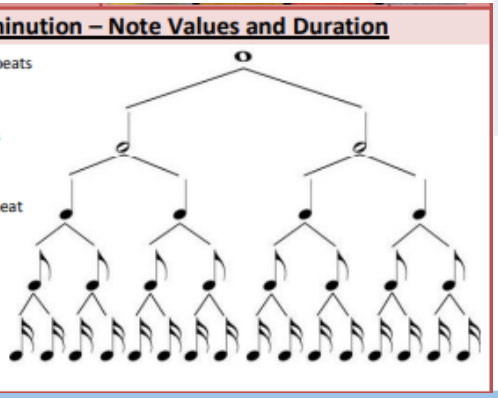


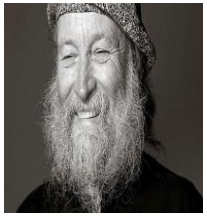
Pulse	Regular Beat
Rhythm	Pattern of long and short note values
Ostinato	Repeated pattern
Pitch	High and low
Duration	Length of sound
Tempo	Speed
Dynamics	Volume
Texture	Layers of sounds
Silence	No sound

Minimalist music often features:
- layers of **ostinati**
- constantly repeated patterns that gradually change
- layered textures
- **diatonic** harmony

The combined effect can be almost hypnotic.

Gradual transformation	When a melodic/ rhythmic pattern gradually changes	Listen: *Eight Lines,* Steve Reich
Additive melody	Change a motif by adding a note one at a time	*Electric Counterpoint,* Steve Reich
Phase shifting	2 parts begin together, then move out of time	*Clapping Music*, Steve Reich
Polyphonic	More than one part at the same time	*In C*, Terry Riley
Phasing	Where the same part is played on 2 instruments at a steady but not identical tempo	*Two Pianos,* Steve Reich





Composition | Texture | Devices