

MELODIC DEVICES



TIMBRE

The unique quality of sound produced by an instrument or voice.

REGISTER

The total range of pitches a voice or instrument can produce (the relative span of pitch - high, medium, low).

TESSITURA

The most comfortable register a voice or instrument can produce.

CONTOUR

The unique melodic shape created by the specific rise and fall of pitches in a melody.

MOTIVE

The smallest musical idea that recurs and is developed through the course of a musical composition or passage.



Motives can be compositionally developed by pitch alone, rhythm alone, or the complete pitch-rhythm combination.

Building Music: What Is A Motif? - TWO MINUTE MUSIC THEORY #24

<https://youtu.be/DwOGGxG8MAc>

VOCAL MUSIC TERMS

Melisma (melismatic)

When a syllable of text is sung with two or more pitches. Each instance of one syllable to multiple pitches is a melisma.

Syllabic

When a syllable of text corresponds to a single pitch.