

Nebraska K-12 Fine Arts Standards: Music Glossary

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. <i>FA 5.4.1.a, FA 8.4.1.a, FA 12.4.1.a, FA 8.4.1.b, FA 8.4.1.c, FA 12.4.1.c, FA 5.4.1.c, FA 8.4.1.d, FA 12.4.1.d, FA 8.4.3.b, FA 12.4.3.b, FA 8.4.3.c, FA 12.4.3.c</i>
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, 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. <i>FA 2.4.2.c, FA 5.4.2.c, FA 8.4.2.c, FA 12.4.2.c</i>

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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) <i>FA 8.4.2, FA 12.4.2, FA 8.4.3.a, FA 12.4.3.a, FA 12.4.3.b</i>
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). <i>FA 12.4.2.a, FA 12.4.3.c</i>
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. <i>FA 12.4.2.a</i>

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.