

ACO MUSIC & ART

Lesson One: Introduction to Sound

Additional Notes for teachers, parents and students

Musical Concepts

This video introduces the different elements of sound, which we refer to as the 'Concepts of Music'.

The concepts covered in this video are:

1. **Duration** – long or short sounds
2. **Dynamics** – loud or soft sounds
3. **Pitch** – high or low sounds
4. **Tone Colour** – describing the sound the instrument makes.

There are lots of different techniques for making sounds differently, but in this video you see two common techniques used on string instruments:

- a. **Bowing** – using the bow across the strings to make a sound resulting in a warm, full sound. The musical term is called 'Arco',
- b. **Plucking** – using the finger to pluck the string resulting in a short, plucky sound. The musical term is called 'Pizzicato'.

Additional information on the concepts of music:

youtu.be/QrOh_mR5sZ4

Graphic Notation

What you created in this lesson is what we call 'graphic notation' or a 'graphic score'. This is a very simple way of expressing sound in writing by using lines, shapes and symbols. There is no right or wrong way to make graphic notation so it is an excellent way for anyone to be able to 'write' down what music sounds like.

While this is a great way for those with no formal music training to write music, some professional composers use this as a way to write their music, rather than traditional music notation.

You can see some examples of professional graphic scores here:

classicfm.com/discover-music/latest/graphic-scores-art-music-pictures/