



5th & 6th Class
Music



Tempo

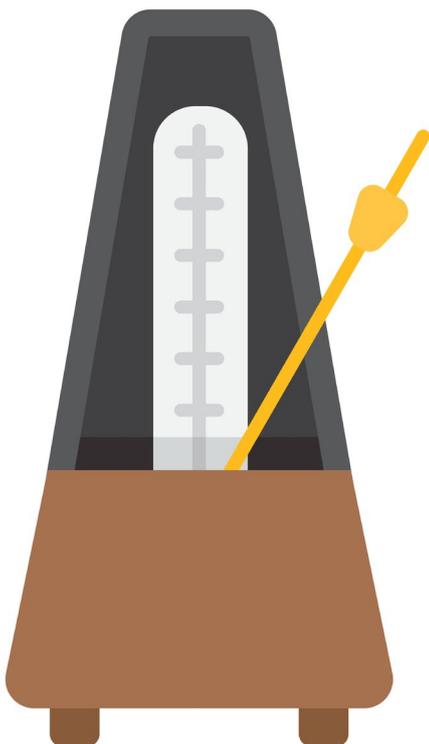
Today, Muinteoir Cliona taught us a brilliant RnB song called The Name Game. Did you notice that the song had quite a fast tempo? It made it tricky to keep up with all the words!

Tempo is the speed at which a piece of music is played. It is measured by **BPM (beats per minute)** and is related to our heart rate, which Muinteoir John told us all about before.

A device called a **metronome** is used to figure out the tempo of a song. In an orchestra, it is the conductor who keeps everyone in the same tempo.

The more beats per minute the song has, the faster the song is. Every song has a fast, slow, or medium tempo. Sometimes, the tempo can change many times in the SAME song - so a song can be both fast AND slow!

The easiest way to find out if the tempo has changed is if you clap along to the beat of a song. If your claps start to sound a little out of rhythm, that usually means there has been some sort of tempo change.





Find the Tempo

Why don't you try it out for yourself - listen to your favourite song, examine the tempo and answer the following questions:

01 How would you describe the tempo of this song - is the song slow, medium or fast?

02 Does the tempo get faster or slower at any point?

03 Try singing the song really, really slowly - how does it alter the mood of the song? Does it make it seem happier or sadder?

04 Now try singing it really fast - how does it alter the mood of the song?





Describe the Speed

How to describe the speed of a song

Often, directions for how fast a song should be played are written on the sheet of music in the Italian language.



Lento
means very slow



Moderato
means a medium
(or moderate) pace



Allegro
means fast

If a piece of music has Rubato written on it, this tells you that there is no set tempo - you can play or sing the song as fast or as slow as you like!



That's Amore

Speaking of Italy, there is a great Italian song called **“That's Amore”** (“Amore” means “love”) and has lots of tempo changes throughout the song. **It is sometimes lento, sometimes moderato, and sometimes rubato.**

Best of all - it mentions PIZZA! If you don't know the song, why don't you ask a grown-up to sing it or hum it for you? Why don't you give it a go singing along and seeing if you can keep up with all the tempo changes?

Here are the lyrics:

That's Amore by Dean Martin



In Napoli, where love is king

When boy meets girl, here's what they say

When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie, that's amore (that's amore)

When the world seems to shine like

You've had too much wine, that's amore (that's amore)

Bells will ring ting-a-ling-a-ling

Ting-a-ling-a-ling, and you'll sing, “Vita bella”

Hearts will play tippy-tippy-tay

Tippy-tippy-tay, like a gay tarantella

...



That's Amore

When the stars make you drool just like a pasta e
fasule, that's amore

When you dance down the street with
A cloud at your feet, you're in love

When you walk in a dream but you know
you're not dreaming, signore

Scusami, but you see, back in old Napoli, that's amore

Composers: Jack Brooks & Harry Warren

Copyright: Capitol Records



Riddle me this...

What has a lot of keys but can't open doors?

A piano.





Ba-dum-TISH!

In a band, it is the drummer who keeps the whole band together with the beat of their drum-kit. Join the dots and colour in this vital band member!



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