



Classic and Choral Music Terminology 2021

June

| Source Term | Sesotho Equivalent |
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| Absolute music: instrumental music with no intended story (non-programmatic music) | Mminofeela |
| A cappella: choral music with no instrumental accompaniment | Akhaphela |
| Accelerando: gradually speeding up the speed of the rhythmic beat | Keketso |
| Accent: momentarily emphasizing a note with a dynamic attack | Toboketso/akesente |
| Alto: a low-ranged female voice; the second lowest instrumental range | Altho |
| Ballet: (genre) a <i>programmatic</i> theatrical work for dancers and orchestra | Balei / Balete |
| Bar: a common term for a musical measure | Bara |
| Baritone: a moderately low male voice; in range between a tenor and a bass | Barathone |
| Bass: the lowest male voice | Bese |
| Cadence: a melodic or harmonic punctuation mark at the end of a phrase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final cadence – e phethahetseng - Non final cadence – e saphethahalang | Kheidense/Foreisi e phethahetseng |
| Cadenza: an unaccompanied section of virtuosic display played by a soloist in a concerto | Boipabolo |
| Crescendo: gradually getting louder | Keketso ya modumo |
| Canon: a type of strict imitation created by strict echoing between a melodic "leader" and subsequent "follower(s)" | Ketsisano |
| Conductor: a person who directs the performance of musicians or a piece of music, esp. by an orchestra: | Molaodi |
| Cantata: (genre) a composition in several movements, written for chorus, soloist(s) and orchestra; | Khanthata |
| Diminution: the shorten the note values of a theme (usually to render it | Khutsufatso |

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| twice as fast) | | |
| Decrescendo: gradually getting quieter | Phokotso | |
| Disjunct: a melody that is not smooth in contour (has many leaps) | Phapang | |
| Dotted note: a written note with a dot to the right of it | Noto e leroboko | |
| Electric instrument: an instrument whose sound is produced or modified by an electro-magnetic pick-up | Seletswasamotlakase | |
| English horn: a tenor oboe; a richly nasal-sounding double-reed woodwind instrument | Lenaka la Manyesemane | |
| Ensemble: a group of musical performers | Sehlotshwana | |
| Falsetto: a vocal technique that allows a male to sing in a much higher, lighter register | Falseto | |
| Flat sign: a musical symbol that lowers the pitch one half-step | Letshwaola sehalo | |
| Flute: a metal tubular instrument that is the soprano instrument of the standard woodwind family | Foleiti | |
| Gamelan: an Indonesian musical ensemble comprised primarily of percussion instruments | Gamelane | |
| Genre: a category of musical composition (the specific classification of a musical work) | Mofutawammino | |
| Glissando: a rapid slide between two distant pitches | Thello | |
| Gong: a non-pitched percussion instrument made of a large metal plate struck | Gong | |
| Half step (Semi tone): the smallest interval in the Western system of equal temperament | Kgato e safellang | |
| Harmony: the elemental category describing vertical combinations of pitches | Momahano | |
| Harp: a plucked instrument having strings stretched on a triangular frame | Harepa | |
| Idée fixe: a transformable melody that recurs in every movement of a multi-movement work | Phetapheto | |
| Imitation: a polyphonic texture in which material is presented then echoed from voice to voice | Ketsisano | |
| Improvisation: "on-the-spot" creation of music (while it is being performed) | Mokgabiso | |
| Incidental music: (genre) music performed during a theatrical play | Mminowaketsahalo | |

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| Jazz: a style of American modern popular music combining African and Western musical traits | Jeze |
| Key: the central note, chord or scale of a musical composition or movement | Khii / Noto e bohareng |
| Keyboard: any instrument whose sound is initiated by pressing a series of keys with the fingers | Thomo / Khiiboto |
| Largo: a very slow, broad tempo | Kamokgwa o batsi |
| Legato: a smooth, connected manner of performing a melody | Momahano |
| Libretto: the sung/spoken text of an opera | Mantswe a ngotsweng |
| Mode: a scale or key used in a musical composition | Mefuta ya tlhahlamano ya dinoto |
| Moderato: a moderate tempo | Sekgahla se bohareng |
| Modulation: the process of changing from one musical key to another | Phetoho |
| Nationalism: musical styles that include folk songs, dances, language | Botjhaba |
| Natural sign: a musical symbol that raises the pitch one half-step | Sehalo se bohareng |
| Oboe: a nasal-sounding double-reed instrument that is the alto of the standard woodwind family | Ubu |
| Octave: a musical interval between two pitches in which the upper pitch vibrates twice as fast as the lower | Sehalosaborobedi / Oktheive |
| Opera: a large-scale, fully-staged dramatic theatrical work involving solo singers, chorus and orchestra | Opera |
| Oratorio: a large-scale sacred work for solo singers, chorus and orchestra that is not staged | Orathario |
| Percussion instrument: an instrument on which sound is generated by striking its surface with an object | Diletswatsetidingwang |
| Phrase: a small musical unit equivalent to a grammatical phrase in a sentence | Lehlaswana |
| Pianissimo: a very quiet dynamic marking | Lenyele |
| Piano: a versatile modern keyboard instrument that makes sound via fingered keys that engage felt-tipped hammers that strike the strings | Piyano |
| Quadruple meter: a basic metrical pattern having four beats per measure | Mitara o bone |

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| Quotation music: a composition extensively using quotations from earlier works | Mminowadiqotso / Mmino o qotsitsweng |
| Quartet: a group of four people playing music or singing together | Bone |
| Raga: a melodic pattern used in the music of India | Raga |
| Range: the distance between the lowest and highest possible notes of an instrument or melody | Bokgoni |
| Rap: (hip-hop) a style of popular music developed by Afro-Americans, in which the lyrics are spoken over rhythm tracks | Repe |
| Recapitulation: the third aspect of Classic sonata form; in this section, both themes of the exposition are restated in the home key | Kakaretso |
| Retrograde: a melody presented in backwards motion | Poelomorao |
| Retrograde inversion: a melody presented backwards and intervallically upside down | Poelomoraoyahlanaphetho |
| Rhythm: the element of music as it unfolds in time | Morethetho |
| Rhythm and Blues: a style of Afro-American popular music; a direct predecessor to rock and roll | Rhythm and Blues |
| Ritardando: gradually slowing down the tempo | Monyebo |
| Ritornello form: a Baroque design that alternates big vs. small effects | Bonngwe le bongata |
| Sackbut: an ancient brass instrument; ancestor to the trombone | Lenakana / Sekebate |
| Saxophone: a family of woodwind instruments with a single reed and brass body | Sekesofounu |
| Scale: an family of pitches arranged in an ascending/descending order | Tlhahlamano ya dinoto |
| Scat singing: a style of improvised jazz singing sung on colourful nonsense syllables | Ho binakamakgabane / Ho ipabola |
| Scherzo: a country dance in triple meter | Seketso |
| Sequence: the immediate repetition of a melodic passage on a higher or lower pitch level | Tatelano |
| Score: written notation that vertically aligns all instrumental/vocal parts used in a composition | Sekoro |
| Serenade: a Classic instrumental chamber work similar to a small-scale symphony | Sereneiti |
| Symphony: an elaborate musical composition for full orchestra, typically in four movements, at least one of which is traditionally in sonata form. | Simfoni |
| Serialism: a method of modern composition in which the twelve chromatic | Totofatso |

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| pitches. | |
| Through-composed form: a song form with no large-scale musical repetition | Boqapibotswelang |
| Tone colour: the unique, characteristic sound of a musical instrument or voice | Bolengbalentswe |
| Tonic: the first note of a scale or key | Noto e qalang |
| Tonic Sol-fa: is a pedagogical technique for teaching sight-singing | Donokotsa Sol-fa |
| Transition: a bridge section between two musical ideas | Phetoho / Neletsano |
| Unison: the rendering of a single melodic line by several performers simultaneously | Ntsweleng |
| Upbeat: the weak beat that comes before the strong downbeat of a musical measure | Modumo o bokowa |
| Variation: the process of changing an aspect of a musical work while retaining others | Phapano / Phetoho |
| Verismo: a style of true-to-life Italian opera that flourished at the turn of the 20th century | Verisimo |
| Vibrato: small fluctuations in pitch used to make a sound more expressive | Thothomelo ya tlhaho |
| Violin: the soprano instrument of the modern string family | Violine |
| Waltz: an aristocratic ballroom dance in triple meter that flourished in the Romantic period | Waletse |
| World beat: the collective term for today's popular third-world musical styles | Mminowalefatshe |
| Xylophone: a pitched percussion instrument consisting of flat wooden bars on a metal frame that are struck by hard mallets | Zaelofounu |