

Elements of Music: Simplified Terms

Rhythm: How fast or slow music is and what beats are emphasized

Dynamics: How loud or soft music is and when it changes

Melody: The main “theme” of a song- likely the part you would whistle or sing in your car

Harmony: Notes sung or played above or below the melody to make the music sound “full”

Tone/Color: also known as *timbre* and can be thought of as any unique sound or instrument in a song

Texture: How many musical “lines” overlap each other. A single voice would be one line, but a choir of singers could be divided into eight or more “lines” that overlap.

Form: The general “Shape” of a song, Life is a Highway by Tom Cochrane could be written:

A: Verse (“Life's like a road that you travel on/When there's one day here and the next day gone...”)

B: Pre-Chorus (“We won't hesitate, break down the garden gate...”)

C: Chorus (“Life is a highway...”)

A: Verse (“Through all these cities and all these towns/ It's in my blood and it's all around”)

B: Pre-Chorus (“We won't hesitate, break down the garden gate...”)

C: Chorus (“Life is a highway...”)

D: Bridge (“There was a distance between you and I...”)

C: Chorus (“Life is a highway...”)

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A, B, C, A, B, C, D, C, C