

Harmony & Tonality - Glossary

Amy Linington Music

Harmony - Harmony is when two or more notes of different pitch are sounded at the same time. It is usually thought of as the notes that accompany a melody- or the chords.

Tonality - Tonality means that the music belongs to a key. A typical answer to "What is the tonality?" would be "Major" or "Minor."

Diatonic - Staying within one key.

Chromatic

- 1) using notes which are not in the original key or
- 2) Moving frequently from key to key.

Consonant - The notes blend together pleasantly.

Dissonant - The notes clash harshly with each other.

Pedal (*MD) (Musical Device) - A persistent note, either sustained on instruments which are capable of holding a note or constantly repeated on instruments where the sound decays rapidly.

Drone (*MD) - Long held note (like pedal note) but associated with Folk and Indian music.

Tonal - In a key (Major/Minor.)

Major - A scale running: TTSTTTS. •

Minor - A scale with a flattened third and alternative 6th and 7th notes

Modal - a type of musical scale coupled with a set of characteristic melodic and harmonic behaviours. A lot of modal music tends to pre-date major or minor

Atonal - Music without a key •

Modulation - A change of key during a passage of music.

Types of chord

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concord - a chord where all the notes seem to 'agree' with each other. It feels at rest and complete in itself.

discord - a chord where some notes seem to 'disagree' or clash giving an unsettled feel.

Diatonic harmony uses notes that belong to the key.

Chromatic harmony uses notes from outside the key to give the chords more 'colour'.A