**Elements of Music**

Tempo: Overall pace of the song; speed of the music. In a musical composition, tempo is usually described with Italian words such as largo, adagio, allegro, etc.

Rhythm: In songs, words usually match the rhythm. The origin of the word is Greek, meaning "flow." As meter pulsates a poem, rhythm organizes music in much the same way. The regular pulsations of the music are called the beat.

Pitch: High or low tones.

Timbre: Color of the sound. Each sound has a unique timbre.

Dynamics: Loudness or softness of the sound. Dynamics add emotional intensity. Italian words like forte, pianissimo, and crescendo give musician’s clues on how loud a piece should be played or sung.

Melody: The tune. A series of musical tones or pitches falling into a recognizable pattern.

Harmony: The blending of tones or sounds played or sung simultaneously to make up chords.

What’s the difference between sound and music? Compare an African drumbeat and the heartbeat. Both have rhythm and pitch, but the drumbeat is intentional, a deliberate organization of sounds for the sake of making music. Melody, rhythm, pitch, and repetition are employed to created a musical form and evoke an emotional response.