David Ross Education Trust
Broadening Horizons

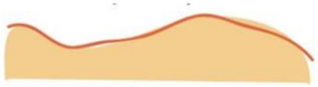
Year 9 Unit 1
Ground Bass

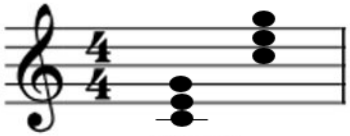
Ground Bass is a composition technique built upon a short theme played in the bass which constantly repeats with changing harmonies.

The bass theme does not change, but the parts above the bass change and develop.

Pachelbel's Canon begins with a ground bass opening.

Melody	a series of single sounds that form a tune.
Rhythm	the placement of sounds in relation to time.
Pitch	how high or low a sound is.
Texture	how the layers of sound within a piece of music interact.
Harmony	multiple pitches being played at the same time.
Structure	the arrangement of a piece of music.
Chord	three or more single pitches heard simultaneously.
Walking bass	a continuous rhythm of four beats in a bar, usually with a repetitive melodic pattern.
12-bar blues	a standard structure for blues, built up of a pattern of chords I, IV and V.
Improvisation	the spontaneous composition and performance of music.
Swung	alternately lengthening and shortening the first and second consecutive notes in a beat.

	Monophonic texture includes a single melodic line without an accompaniment. It is basically just the melody.
	Melody and accompaniment. It is one melody instrument and other instrument(s) act as the accompaniment.
	Multiple melodies that are played independently from one another. There is often lots of repetition between the different parts.

A triad is a chord of three notes, consisting of the first, third and fifth note of the scale.

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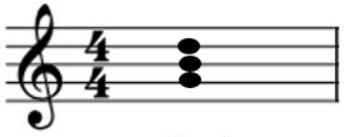
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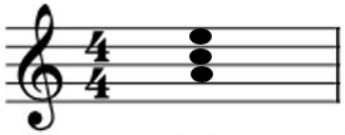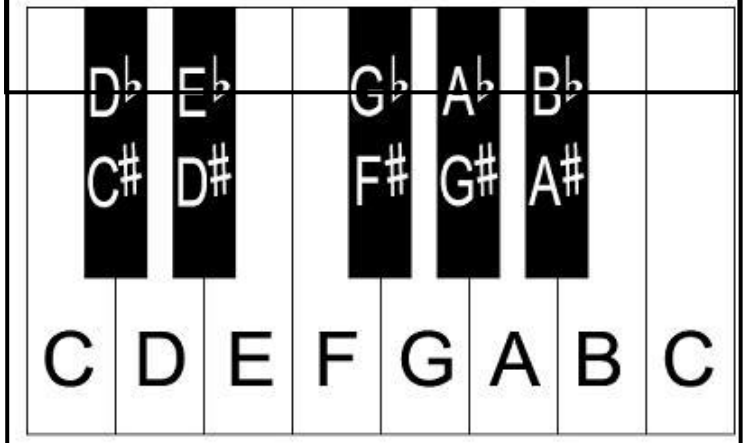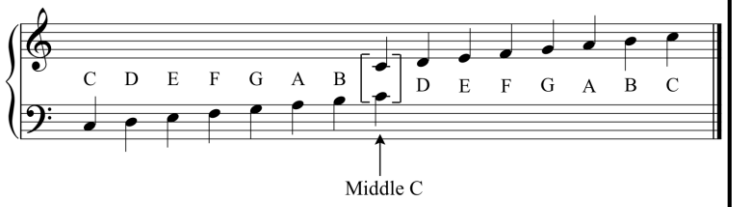
A minor