





Follow the Conductor: An Introduction to Musical Elements

By learning about five main musical elements in this one-hour workshop, students learn to listen to music in a different way: more actively and more consciously. Also, identifying these elements in different pieces of music can lead them to appreciate and enjoy music more than before.

Through related activities, students learn about these five musical elements: Beat, Meter, Tempo, Dynamics, and Pitch. The main activity in this workshop is finding these musical elements in Disney cartoon songs (while they are being played on a screen) and moving arms or clapping or singing following the conductor (the instructor). A list of all YouTube active listening examples (A to I) is given on page 4. Here are five musical elements that students learn about:

1. Beat (The pulse in music): Students move their body according to the beat of the music that they are listening to. Active video listening example: A
2. Meter (Duple and Triple): Students learn to move their arms and conduct a duple (or triple) meter and count up to two (or three). Then, they listen to two Disney songs, and find out if it is better to count up to two (for a duple meter song), or up to three (for a triple meter song) for each song. Active video listening examples: B and C (duple meter); D and E (triple meter)



3. Tempo (Fast or Slow): Student clap according to the tempo and tempo changes in a song. Active video listening Example: F (from 2:10)
4. Dynamics (Loud or Quiet): Students repeat “La La La” and make it louder when the conductor moves her arm up, and make it more quiet, when the conductor moves her arm down. Then, they listen to a Disney song and move their arms up or down according to the dynamic changes. Active video listening example: G
5. Pitch (High or Low): When the conductor opens her arms, students say “Aaaa” in a high pitched voice, when conductor closes her arms, they say “Boom” in a low pitched voice. Then, students listen to a Disney song and find the pitch changes and show them by opening or closing their arms following the conductor. Active video listening examples: H and I



Active Video Listening Examples (List of Disney songs used in this workshop)

- A. Jungle Book: *Colonel Hathi's March* – Beat
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9qfWvVfESA>
- B. Jungle Book: *Bare Necessities* – duple meter
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAuQTZ3Btfk>
- C. Cinderella: *We Can Do It!* – duple meter
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tg1GboGyxkk>
- D. Anastasia: *Once upon a December* – triple meter
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Bsdu57SFZc>
- E. Sleeping Beauty: *Once Upon a Dream* – triple meter
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXbHShUnwxY>
- F. Beauty and the Beast: *Be our Guest* – tempo
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afzmwAKUppU>
- G. Frozen: *Let it Go* – dynamics
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moSFlvxnbkg>
- H. Alice in Wonderland: *All in the Golden Afternoon* – pitch
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1499L4GMsg>
- I. Cinderella: *Bibbidi-Babbidi-Boo*- pitch
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXJvxEHSv5E>