Year 7 Music – Knowledge Organiser – **Programme Music**
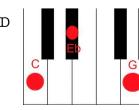
HISTORICAL CONTEXT

1. Programme music is **descriptive**, suggesting visual images or '**telling a story**'. The descriptive idea or **story-line is known as the programme**.

2. Instrumental music that is free of a programme and exists purely for its own sake is known as absolute music.

3. Although descriptive music had always existed, **orchestral programme music became very popular during the Romantic period** (roughly the 19th century) when music developed close links with **literature and painting.**

4. **Musical devices** used to express the story or inspiration include:	**Musical motifs** - short melodic or rhythmic ideas used to represent characters or images
	Transformation of themes where a basic theme undergoes changes to mirror a situation
	Orchestral colour - use of instruments to represent characters or images
	Imitation of sounds e.g. birdsong or thunder
	Use of musical elements – dynamics, harmony, tempo, key

DYNAMICS (= Volume)

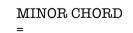| Term	Symbol:	Effect:
pianissimo	*pp*	very soft
piano	*p*	soft
mezzo piano	*mp*	moderately soft
mezzo forte	*mf*	slightly loud
forte	*f*	loud
fortissimo	*ff*	very loud
fortepiano	*fp*	loud then soft
sforzando	*sfz*	sudden accent
crescendo	<	gradually louder
diminuendo	>	gradually softer

Instruments and common associations (Musical Cliché's)

Woodwind	Natural sounds such as bird song, animals, rivers
Brass	Soldiers, war, royalty, ceremonial occasions
Tuba	Large and slow moving things
Harp	Tenderness, love
Glockenspiel	Magic, fairy tales
Timpani/Drums	War, fighting, thunder
Strings	Often used to portray emotions: passion, grief etc.

TEMPO (= Speed)

Largo	Very Slow
Adagio	Slow
Andante	Walking pace
Moderato	Moderate
Allegro	Fast
Vivace	Lively
Presto	Very fast
Ritardando	Getting slower
Accelerando	Getting faster

Key Composers

Hector Berlioz – Symphonie Fantastique (1830)
Modest Mussorgsky – Pictures at an Exhibition (1874)
Camille Saint-Saëns – The Carnival of the Animals (1886)
Paul Dukas – The Sorcerer's Apprentice (1897)

MAJOR CHORD = Root Note + 4 Semitones + 3 semitones

MINOR CHORD = Root Note + 3 Semitones + 4 semitones