Year 7 - Minimalist Music Knowledge Organiser

Musical Context

Minimalism is an extreme form of abstract art developed in the **USA** in the **1960s**

Artworks were composed of simple geometric shapes based on the square and rectangle



Steve Reich created minimalist music after studying the music of Africa and Indonesia

Minimalist music is characterised by being highly repetitive and often hypnotic

Minimalist music has influenced lots of composers. It is often used in film music and TV advertisements

Steve Reich's music appeared in the film *Hunger Games* (2012)



Key Composers



Famous works include Different Trains and Piano Phase

Philip Glass



Famous works include Metamorphosis and Facades

John Adams



Famous works include **Nixon in** China and Shaker Loops

Musical Conventions

Repetitive – constantly repeating musical ideas



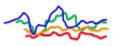
Ostinato – a short repeating musical pattern

Rhythmic ostinato – a short repeating rhythmic pattern

Melodic ostinato – a short repeating melodic pattern



Lavered texture – a piece of music with many layers



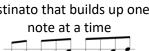
Static harmony – music built around one chord



Pentatonic – Music built on 5 notes 0 0 0

Rhythm - a pattern using different note durations

Additive pattern – an ostinato that builds up one note at a time



Useful Links

Check out some amazing minimalist music using these links:

https://www.voutube.com/wa tch?v=qcGqVynCPaw

https://www.youtube.com/wa tch?v=FAefiZXIg7c

https://www.youtube.com/wa tch?v=I5rQwfcU70E

Learn more about Minimalist Music and expand your knowledge:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesiz e/articles/z6h7jhv

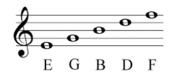
Test Yourself

- In what decade was minimalist music created?
- In which country did it originate?
- Which minimalist composer wrote Piano Phase?
- What is an ostinato?
- What is the difference between a melodic ostinato and a rhythmic ostinato?
- Which countries did Steve Reich visit to inspire him?

Notation - Note Duration

Note Name	Note Symbol	Note Value
Semibreve	O	4 beats
Minim		2 beats
Crotchet		1 beat
Quaver	♪	½ of a beat
Pair of Quavers	Л	2 x ½ beats = 1

Notation - Pitch



Every Green Bus Drives Fast



'FACE' in the space