

# Twinkle Variations

In this unit you will be composing music using the form Theme and variation.



**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**  
1756 - 1791

He is considered as one of the greatest composers in the history of western music.

Thought to be a child prodigy; composing from 5 years old.

He composed over 800 pieces of music.

## Composing techniques



- Experiment with tempo.
- Develop or change the rhythm.
- Experiment with structure - change the order of phrases.
- Decide how to orchestrate your music. Which instruments will play each part?

### Theme:

A short melody (tune) used as the basis of a longer piece of music.

### Variation:

Different versions of the theme.

### Passacaglia:

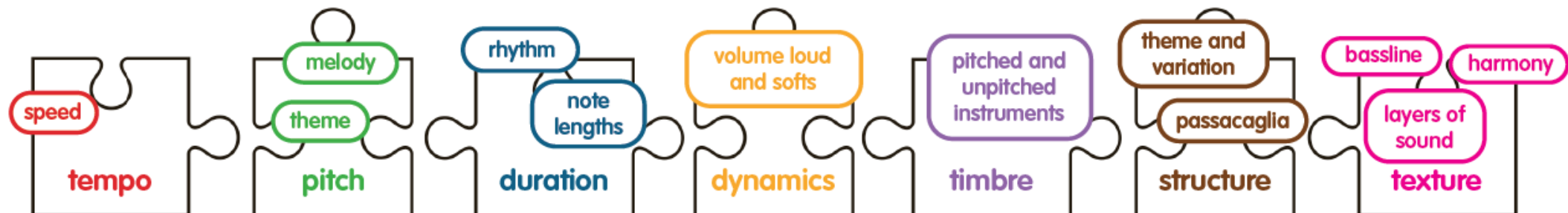
An old musical form, which features a repeating bassline.

### Graphic Score:

A visual representation of music.

### Improvise:

Music that is made up on the spot, without any preparation.



Mozart's Twinkle variations:  
Write an adjective for each variation.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

I feel confident using a variety of composing techniques to create my own theme and variation piece.



Add a comment:



Other composers who composed famous theme and variation pieces ...

Benjamin Britten composed *The young person's guide to the orchestra*. Each variation highlights one section or instrument within the orchestra.



Edward Elgar composed composed *Enigma variations*. Each variation describes one of Elgar's friends, even a dog!



Johannes Brahms composed *Variations on a theme by Haydn*. The last movement is a perfect passacaglia.

