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# Harmony in Music and How It Works

**KS3 MUSIC** Ages 11-14 ⌚ 3 min read

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## What is Harmony in Music?

**Harmony** is when two or more different musical notes are played at the same time and sound pleasing to our ears. It's one of the most important parts of music, alongside **melody** (the main tune you hum) and **rhythm** (the beat). When you hear a singer with instruments backing them up, or when a choir sings together with different voice parts, you're hearing harmony in action.

Think about your favourite songs—many of them have more than one thing happening musically at once. That's harmony working its magic to make the music sound full, rich, and enjoyable.

Think of it like a recipe: just as mixing the right ingredients together makes a delicious cake, mixing the right notes together makes music sound beautiful.

## How is Harmony Created?

Harmony is created by playing **notes that work well together**. Not every note sounds good with every other note—some combinations sound pleasant and others sound strange or wrong. Musicians use something called **intervals** (the distance between notes) to decide which notes to play together.

The most common harmony notes are based on something called **chords**. A **chord** is a group of **three or more notes** played together. The most basic chord is made from notes that are **evenly spaced** in a mathematical pattern. When you play these notes together, they vibrate in a way that our brains find satisfying.

Think of it like a friendship: some people's personalities work perfectly together and make each other happy, while other combinations don't work as well. Notes are the same—some pairs are natural friends.

## Why Do We Need Harmony?

Harmony adds depth and emotion to music. Without it, music would sound thin and boring. Harmony is used in **almost every type of music**—from pop songs and rock

bands to classical orchestras and film soundtracks. Different styles of music use different types of harmony to create different moods.

For example, certain harmonies might sound happy and bright, while others sound sad or mysterious. When composers and songwriters choose which harmonies to use, they're actually choosing how they want the listener to feel.

Think of it like colour in a painting: just as adding different colours makes a picture more interesting and emotional, adding harmony makes music more interesting and emotional.

Learning about harmony helps musicians understand how to make their music sound better and helps listeners appreciate why some songs sound so satisfying to their ears.