

## A GLOSSARY OF MUSICAL TERMS



- ACCIDENTAL** Shitting oneself when attempting a high note.
- AROUND THE HOUSES** Another term for carol-singing.
- ATONAL** A tune made up of just 1 note (A), often heard when tuning-up.
- AVANT GARD** Describes an orchestra. It has a conductor but no guard.
- BALLAD/SAD BALLAD** A corruption of Bad Salad - a sandwich with no tomatos.
- BAR** Where all self-respecting musicians hang out when not playing.
- BARLINE** Having to join a queue before you can get a drink.
- BEAT** How you feel when you try and play music that's too difficult for you.
- BOP** Bordering On Panic
- BOSSA NOVA** A new bandleader in a Latin band.
- BOUNCE** Something to watch when the girl vocalist gets into the groove.
- BREVE** Underpants used for playing very fast numbers. (**Semibreve** = Boxershorts)
- CHILD PRODIGY** Someone who's got the notes but not the pubic hair to go with it.
- CHROMATIC** An unusual method of loft insulation.
- CLEF** French for key - useful for getting into your room when doing a gig in Paris.
- CORDON BLEU** The right chords to use in a strip joint.
- CORDUROY** The chords to use when backing Mr Eldridge.
- CODA** The bit of music you play while deciding who gets the next round in.
- COLLA VOCE** A type of singing expected when wearing a shirt and tie.
- CRESCENDO** Getting louder - wearing more and more garish clothes to a gig.
- CROTCHET** The habit of wearing silly hats on the bandstand (as in Davy...)
- D.C.** (Dud Composer) - Someone who can't think of anything new so repeats it all.
- D.S.** (Delayed Shit) - Knowing you can't go until you've had to play it all again.
- DIATONIC** A remedy for diarrhoea
- DIMINUENDO** Getting softer when the batteries in the PA system run out.
- DOMINANT SEVENTH** The name of the last one of Snow White's dwarfs.
- DOTS** Coming after a note increases the value of the pay cheque by half again.
- FALL-OFF** Failing libido caused by too many notes to play.
- FINE** As in the saying "As long as the ending's fine, no-one notices the rest."
- FLAT** A puncture on the way to the gig.
- FORTE** A chain of restaurants sometimes used by musicians.
- GOING OUTSIDE** What happens when there's no toilet in the establishment.
- HARMONY** Notes given to horn players under the lead part so they won't get bored.
- HEAD** See next item.
- HORN** See last item.
- IMPROVISE** What to do when you've forgotten your music stand.
- INTERVAL** The time spent between cocking up the last number and the next.
- KEY** The best way to open the piano lid.
- KEY SIGNATURE** Safeguards you from getting your own partner back when going to wife-swapping parties.

**LATIN** A stodgy archaic Language used in the Roman Empire, hence the name given to the lively and exciting music found in Cuba and South America !!!

**LEGATO** Played in such a way as to increase the prospects of getting your leg over.

**LYRICS** Poetry worth listening to but never fully-heard or understood.

**MAJOR** The bandleader in a military band.

**MINOR** A musician who works in the pits.

**MELODIC** How to greet a bandleader called Richard while blowing your horn.

**MODE** Music written by someone who's not yet learnt which note to start a major scale on.

**MODULATE** What spacemen had to eat in their lunar capsule.

**NATURAL** *Live* music as opposed to *artificial* canned music.

**PASSING NOTES** A condition caused by consuming too much music.

**PENTATONIC** A round of 5 tonic waters (found only in classical music circles).

**PIANO** An instrument on which you can play 2 or more wrong notes at the same time.

**PITCH** The nautical terms Pitching and Tossing are also used in music.

**POLYTONAL** Songs sung by a parrot.

**QUAVER** What strict-tempo dancers do while the introduction to a song is being played.

**REPEATS** Caused by eating a curry just before going on to play.

**REST** How trumpet players spend most of the time during big band gigs.

**RHYTHM** A regular pulse. Next time, ask your doctor to take your rhythm.

**SCALE** Plaque on teeth. Notice that players with dentures never play scales.

**SCORE** The number of women the drummer has entertained.

**SHARP** A player who always has polished trousers and creases in his shoes.

**SIDE SLIPPING** The sensation you feel just before you fall off the bandstand.

**SIGN** How musicians communicate. Three fingers up means "Get 3 pints in!"

**SKIPPING THE BEAT** Dancing to Hip Hop music.

**SLUR** Tends to occur when the last number of the evening is in a difficult key.

**SOLO** What happens when you get lost playing a big band chart.

**SONG CYCLE** The right piece of music to sing on a bicycle.

**SWING** How the music sounds when you've drunk too much.

**TEMPO** As in the *Wrong Tempo* - how you actually sound when you're drunk

**TIME** The number of hours the gig lasts.

**TONGUING** A way to clean your instrument on the job.

**TREMELO** What happens when you're bursting to go after just the second bar.

**TRILL** How to sing polytonal music.

**TRIPLETS** How a crochet/quarter-note looks when you've been drinking.

**TRITONE** Attempting a note but not succeeding.

**TUNING** How sharp or flat other players are compared to you.

**WOODSHEDDING** An occupation to consider when you give up music.