

WEEK FOUR LESSON

MUSIC

Introduction

Sound is anything we can hear with our ears. Everywhere around us, we hear sound: sound of the ticking clock, the sound of the school bell, the sound of the rain, the sound of birds, sound of moving cars, sound of airplane, sound from human beings etc. Sound is useful in giving us signals. When you hear the school bell or ringing of a phone, its calling for your attention. We even set alarms with our phones to make us wake up at a certain time. So sound is very important to us.

Music is an organized sound that is pleasant to the ear. Music can also be seen as the artistic combination of pleasant sound. Music is all around us. The radio, television, computers, phones etc. are used to provide music every day for our listening pleasure.

The sound of music has to be entertaining and appreciable. This is why it is used to grace ceremonies. Music also plays several roles in the society for teaching, during sports and even for healing. The role of music in our lives is almost endless. Most of the cartoons and movies you see goes with music. Imagine seeing a full movie without music. That will be boring, isn't it?

Music is sung in various languages. Almost all known cultures practice music. Music is usually tied to cultural values, practices and beliefs. Every culture has her own music including the way and instruments used to produce it. We have music sung in Igbo, Ika, Hausa, Yoruba, Efik, Ibibio, Kanuri, Nupe, Tiv, Chinese, Spanish, Italian, Latin etc. As the language vary, so are the musical instruments employed by the various cultures. Music also exist in various styles such as Afrobeat, Makossa, highlife, hiplife, hiphop, reggae, rhythm and blues (R and B), Blues, soul etc.

Noise on another hand, is a disorganized sound. Noise in our environment include shouting, crying, screaming, gun shots, sound of the thunderstorm and so on.

Differences Between Music and Noise

| | Music | Noise |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | Music is organized | Noise is unorganized |
| 2. | Music moves in a definite pattern | Noise moves in an indefinite pattern |
| 3. | Music is pleasant to the ear | Noise is unpleasant to the ear |
| 4. | Music is regular | Noise is irregular |
| 5. | Music is usually pre-arranged and planned | Noise is not planned |
| 6. | Music requires practice or rehearsal | Noise does not require practice or rehearsal |

Music production

Music is produced basically in two ways:

- (a) Singing with human voice
- (b) Playing of musical instruments

Singing

This is the most common way of producing music. The human voice is a readily available instrument. We always have our voices with us. So, it is easy to make music by simply opening our mouth to sing. Each of us have our unique voices. Some voices are high while some are low.

Playing of musical instruments

This is the manipulation of musical instruments to produce musical sound. Basically we have two types of instruments: local instruments and foreign musical instruments. Music performed by playing only musical instruments is called instrumental music. Many times, we use musical instruments to accompany our singing.

Music already performed can be recorded so that we can replay it at other times without having to perform it again. This is what the Disk Jockey (DJ) does for us during ceremonies and parties.



Disc Jokey (DJ) playing out recorded music

Theory of music

Theory of music is the study of music with approaches to examine and analyze how it is composed, written and performed. Music usually appear as sound we hear (audio) or in

written form. People study music in audio form by carefully listening to it. Sometimes it is notated finally on paper. Written music is the use of symbols to represent musical sound. Theory of music helps us to be able to read, understand, analyze and interpret and perform written music. To do all these effectively, one requires the knowledge of fundamentals of music.

Summary

Sound is anything we can hear with our ears. Music is an organized sound that is pleasant to the ear. Noise is a disorganized sound. Music is produced basically in two ways: singing with human voice and playing of musical instruments. Theory of music is the study of music with approaches to examine and analyze how it is composed, written and performed.

Review Questions

1. Define sound.
2. Define music.
3. Explain two ways of producing music.
4. Explain the difference between music and noise.
5. What is theory of music?