



# Year 9 Music: INNOVATION IN MUSIC

## Key Information

**Musical Innovations** have been happening for as long as we have any record of music being made. One of the earliest innovations was the ability to record music in a written form – a **musical score**. Scores mean that music can be returned to and remembered later, and that it can be played by others than the composer him/herself.

The **development of musical instruments** is a second great innovation in the history of music: the more instruments available, the wider a range of **timbres** we can achieve through the music we create. The **orchestra** is one of the most important combinations of instruments ever to be designed, and the introduction of a **conductor** as director allowed more and more complex music to be performed by large groups.

**Technology** has enabled music over many decades to make huge strides forward. Starting with the **musique concrete** of the 1950s, where everyday sounds were recorded and manipulated to make new 'music', through experimental work with **tape**, to modern **digital** technology where almost any tiny changes can be made to any piece of recorded music.



Keyword	Meaning
Timbre	The type/quality of sound produced by an instrument
Musique concrete	Music created from recorded and manipulated sound
Score	Music written down on paper
Graphic Score	Written music represented by pictures
Prepared instrument	Altering an instrument's sound with various objects
Conductor	Directs the performance of an orchestra

## Stretch and Challenge: Conducting

There are three YouTube tutorial videos below by the conductor Leonard Slatkin. Grab a pencil (for a baton) and go through some conducting basics.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zch3QCwcoKY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6gJEyy00rA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5i9nH4v308>

### Analysis

#### Prepared Piano

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXnmPD1sgd8>

Watch and listen to this piece for prepared piano.

- Describe at least three different timbres you hear
- What other instrument does this sound like, if not a piano? Why?

M	A	D	T	S	H	I	R	T
Melody	Articulation	Dynamics	Tempo	Structure	Harmony	Instruments	Rhythm	Texture
The main tune	How the music is played	The volume of the music	The speed of the music	The sections of the music and their order	The chords used	What instruments are used and the sound produced	The patterns of sounds with the beat	Layers of music – how many and what each does

