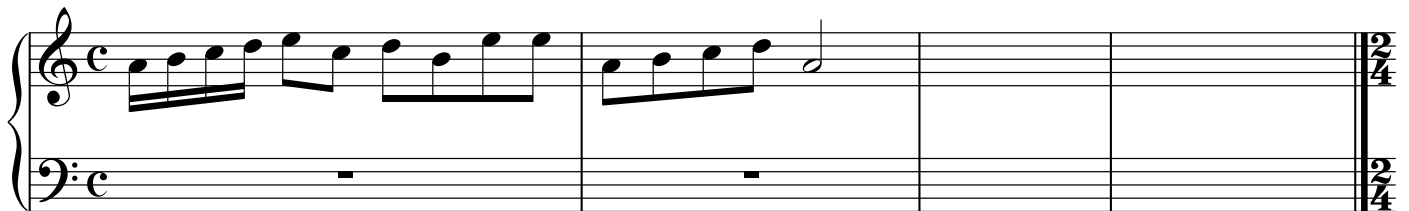


Texture

There are four types of texture you need to know at Grade 6:


- Monophonic
- Homophonic
- Polyphonic / Counterpoint
- Melody dominated homophony

Monophonic literally means 'one sound'. It is a single line of melody.



A monophonic melody can be played with both hands an octave or more apart.

Debussy, *Golliwogg's Cakewalk*

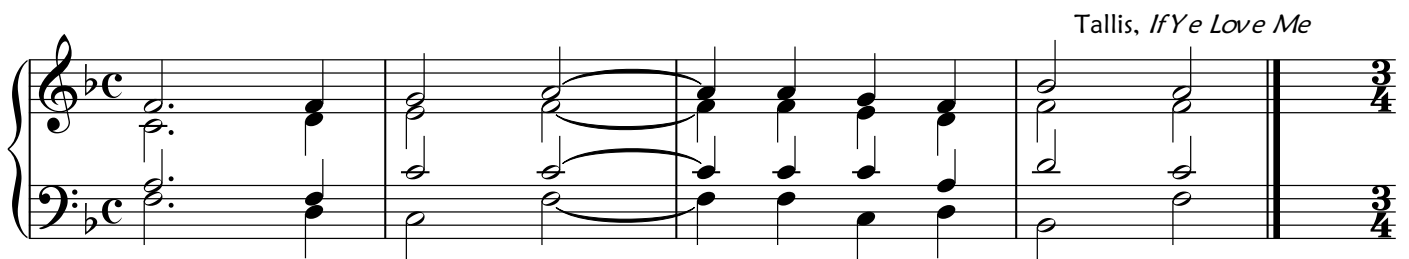


A musical score in 2/4 time, showing a monophonic melody played in both hands. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass clef staff contains the same melody an octave lower. The key signature is three flats.

Homophonic means 'same sound'. Unlike monophonic, the music is played as chords and has the *same rhythm*. Think 'H' for Harmony / 'H' for Homophonic.

Choirs generally sing with a homophonic texture:

Tallis, *If Ye Love Me*



A musical score in 3/4 time, showing a homophonic texture. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass clef staff contains chords. The key signature is one flat.

A Homophonic section can also have the odd melody note - Schubert uses quavers as auxillary notes.

Schubert, *Moment Musical, Op. 94, No. 6*



A musical score in 3/4 time, showing a homophonic texture. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass clef staff contains chords. The key signature is three flats.

2

A Polyphonic texture means 'many sounds'. It is more than one melody playing at a time.

Polyphonic is also called 'Counterpoint'. You can use either term.

J.S. Bach, *Fugue BWV 851*.

The first two measures of the right hand show a simple eighth-note melody. The left hand is silent in the first measure and enters in the second measure with a similar eighth-note pattern.

The next two measures show the right hand playing a more complex sixteenth-note melody while the left hand continues with its eighth-note pattern.

N.B. If the right hand plays and left take it in turn to play a melody it is not polyphonic. The melodies have to be *different* and played at the *same time*.

Melody dominated homophony - exactly what it says in the tin.

A melody accompanied with homophony (chords).

Mozart, *Fantasia in D minor*

The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and ornaments, while the left hand provides accompaniment with chords and eighth-note patterns.

The accompaniment can also be broken chords, or even simpler.

The harmony and the melody are still distinct from each other.

Beethoven, *Sonatina in G*

The right hand has a simple melody, and the left hand plays broken chords (triads) in a rhythmic pattern.

Sometimes the melody is in the left hand. If it is, don't forget to tell the examiner!

Debussy, *Reverie*

The left hand plays a melodic line, while the right hand provides accompaniment with chords and eighth-note patterns. The score ends with a double bar line and the marking '8vb'.