

Creating and Using a Word Wall

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BUT... WHY?!

Word walls can help students develop, remember, and apply music vocabulary in a variety of contexts. Using and referencing it routinely can help with reading skills, and allow for deep-thinking questions after listening to a piece of music. Having it more or less in a singular location can help with organizing a cluttered learning space.

Word wall discussions don't take long, but can add another dimension to your students' music education!

I GET THE "WHY" NOW... BUT HOW?

It's easy to make a word wall! Simply create musical descriptor categories, and place examples below. The categories I currently have on my word wall include form, harmony, tempo, meter, melody, dynamics, tonality, texture, timbre, genre, and ensembles – but it changes over time as I think of better or different categories.

Below dynamics, for example, I might include *ff*, *f*, *mf*, *mp*, *p*, *pp*, *crescendo*, and *diminuendo*. Below form I included various elemental forms, as well as canons, verse/refrain, etc.

Try discussing it after a listening example, using just a few salient categories. Use frequent choral response in the discussion, and your kids will get the hang of it in no time! Shoot me an email if you'd like more info.