



**Anoushka Shankar**  
Autumn Term 2025  
*1981 - Current*



# Composer Recap

Retrieval: knowing more, remembering more

## Question:

Name the composer, piece and setting!

## Clue:

Sporting event



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**Answer:**

**Composer:** Errollyn Wallen

**Piece:** Spirit in Motion  
(Paralympics)



**Question:**

Name the composer/piece.



**Answer:**

**Composer: Mozart**

**Piece: Eine kleine nachtmusik**



**Question:**

Name the composer/piece.



**Answer:**

**Composer: Tan Dun**

**Piece: Water Concerto**





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### Autumn Term Composer - Anoushka Shankar (World Music - Indian Classical Fusion)

- **Age/Era:** A world-renowned sitar player and composer, born in 1981, who blends traditional Indian classical music with various global genres like flamenco and jazz.
- Listening Example <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Kcdme8DLTs>
- **Date of Birth:** 9th June 1981 / **Birth Location:** London, England
- **Nationality:** British / Indian
- **3 Famous Pieces:**
  - "Traces of You" – a beautiful piece featuring her half-sister Norah Jones.
  - "Traveller" – an album and piece that explores the connections between Indian and Spanish music.
- **Where they studied:** Primarily trained by her legendary father, Ravi Shankar, a master of the sitar.

# Vocabulary

## Indian Classical Music

Indian Classical Music is an ancient form of traditional music (over 6000 years old). The music is typically passed down orally and is very connected to nature.



## Tabla Drums

A **tabla** is a pair of twin hand drums from from India. Tabla is an important instrument in Indian Classical Music. Tabla can be played as a solo or used to accompany a singer/ensemble.



## Sitar

The **sitar** is a longed necked string instrument. It's the equivalent to an indian classical guitar.



## Call and Response

Call and response is a question and answer phrase in music.



Here is a quick introduction to the **Sitar** and **Tabla** from someone else who will be helping us this term – Mira, Royal Detective.



# Before listening, lets recap the Elements of Music

## Chant:

Pitch is high and low

Tempo is fast and slow

Rhythm is a pattern of long and short sounds

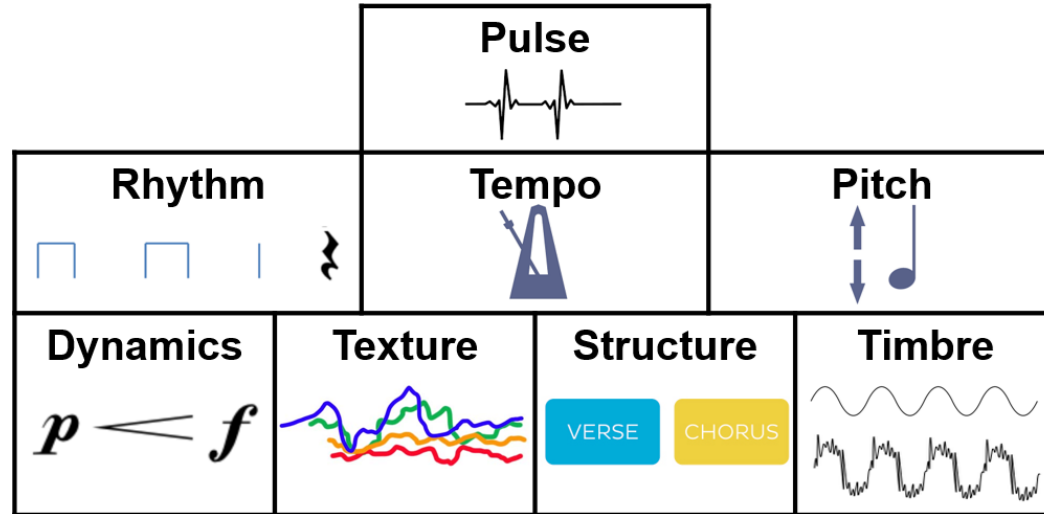
Dynamics are Loud or Soft

Texture is Thick or Thin  
(how many layers/instruments are present)

## Extra elements to discuss:

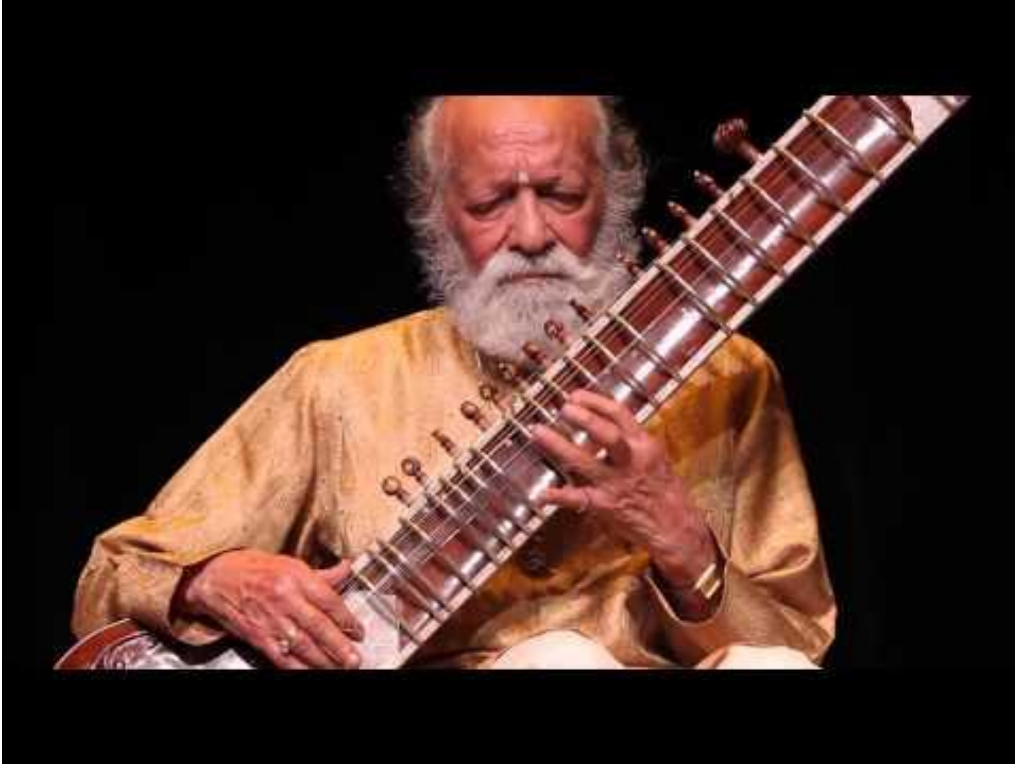
Structure - The order of the music (verse/chorus)

Timbre - The tone or quality of the sound. Adjectives that describe the sound (harsh/smooth/sharp/bright etc).



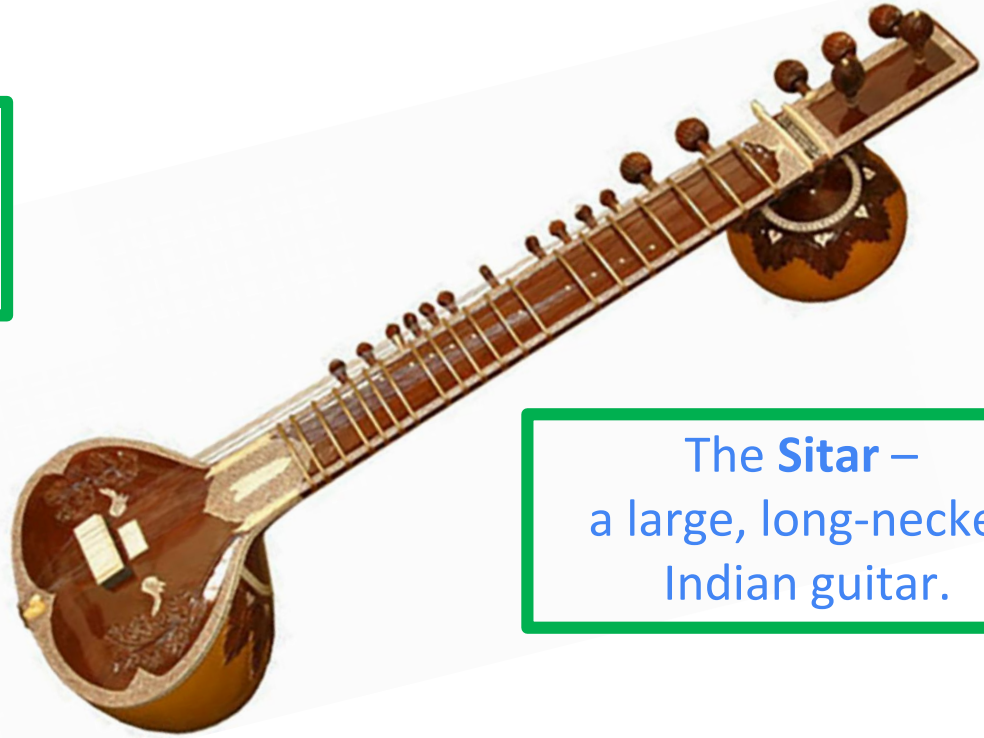
## What elements of music can you hear in the piece?

Let's explore what **Indian Classical Music** sounds like in real life! This is Ravi Shankar (Anoushka's Farther)



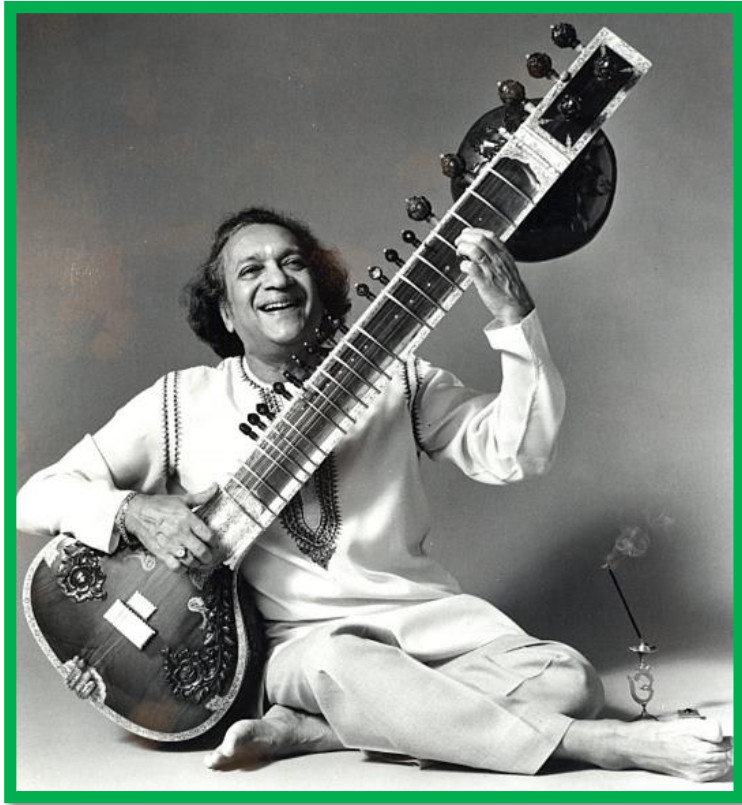
The music you heard in this clip used two very important instruments which we will learn about this term.

The **Tabla** –  
a pair of small  
hand drums.



The **Sitar** –  
a large, long-necked  
Indian guitar.

The **soloist** in the video who was playing the **sitar** was a very famous Indian musician called **Ravi Shankar**.



The **Sitar** –  
a large, long-necked  
Indian guitar.

# So we have two instruments to learn about – the Tabla and the Sitar. Let's focus first on The Tabla for this lesson!

What is interesting about **Tabla** is that you learn to speak/say the sounds the drums can make before you learn to play them. Like this...

Tabla Improvisation



Tabla Phonetics



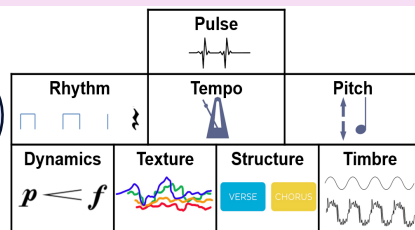


# Autumn Term: Anoushka Shankar



- **Date of Birth:** 9th June 1981
- **Birth Location:** London, England
- **Nationality:** British / Indian

**Early life:** Born in London in 1981, Anoushka grew up moving between London, Delhi and California. Her father was the legendary sitar player, Ravi Shankar! You might have heard of him because he taught The Beatles' George Harrison to play the sitar. He was also our composer in 2021/22.



Iconic moments:

1. Performance at BBC Proms on **12th August 2025** Ft London Contemporary Orchestra
1. First Indian musician to perform live at the Grammy Awards on **13th February 2005**, following her nomination for the album *Rise*.

**Early Career/Family**  
Anoushka's music is a cool mix of different styles. She started by playing traditional Indian classical music at the age of 7, just like her father (Ravi Shankar). As she got older, she began to experiment, blending her sitar with modern music like electronic beats, jazz, and even Spanish flamenco. Anoushka also has a famous half-sister, the singer Norah Jones. She has featured in many of her pieces over the years.



## Famous Pieces:

### Traces of You

This piece is a memorial to her father and blend Indian classical music with various other genres.

**Boat to Nowhere** is the first song on her 2016 album, *Land of Gold*, and it serves as a powerful opening to the album's central theme of the global refugee crisis.

**Voice of the Moon** is a significant piece featured on her 2005 album, *Rise*. It is a beautiful example of her unique ability to blend traditional Indian classical music with contemporary and Western sounds.

# Piece: Voice of the Moon

# Composer: Anoushka Shankar

How does it make you feel?  
What musical elements are being used?  
What is the time signature?  
Major or Minor key?

## Time Signature

Type Of Beat	Duple Time	Triple Time	Quadruple Time
Crotchet Beat	$\frac{2}{4}$ ♩ ♩	$\frac{3}{4}$ ♩ ♩ ♩	$\frac{4}{4}$ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩

Major



Minor



**Summary:** The core of the song is Anoushka Shankar's masterful sitar playing. The piece begins with a slow, sweet and dream-like melody, gradually building in tempo and complexity. The sitar is complemented by a blend of Indian and Western instruments, creating a rich and innovative sound. These instruments include: Sitar, Tabla (percussion), Shehnai (woodwind), Cello (strings), Keyboard and Hang (percussion).

Live in France 2014

## Instruments



# Poster 1: Anoushka Shankar



## Starting points

- Where was she born (location)?
- What year was she born (date)?
- What instruments does she play?
- What are some of her achievements?



Write down 3 facts about  
Anoushka Shankar!

Use your facts, or discuss with  
a partner!

## Test the Knowledge(Anoushka Shankar)

1. What instrument does Anoushka play?
2. Name one of her biggest achievements?
3. Name one of her famous pieces!
4. Who was her father?





# Anoushka Shankar

Session 2: Graphic Scores

# Let's recap the Elements of Music

## Chant:

Pitch is high and low

Tempo is fast and slow

Rhythm is a pattern of long and short sounds

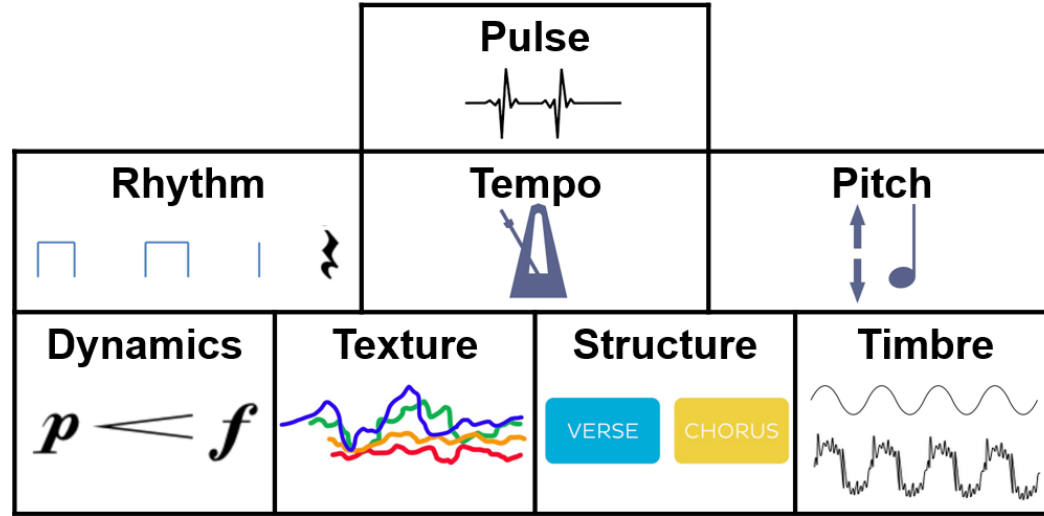
Dynamics are Loud or Soft

Texture is Thick or Thin  
(how many layers/instruments are present)

## Extra elements to discuss:

Structure - The order of the music (verse/chorus)

Timbre - The tone or quality of the sound. Adjectives that describe the sound (harsh/smooth/sharp/bright etc).



What elements of music can you hear in the piece?

# Piece: Boat to Nowhere

# Composer: Anoushka Shankar

**Summary:** *Boat to Nowhere* is a song by Anoushka Shankar from her album *Land of Gold*. It's not a regular pop song, but a special genre of music that tells a story without any words. It uses the beautiful sounds of the **sitar** to describe a very sad and dangerous journey.

The album *Land of Gold* is all about helping us understand what it's like for **refugees**, who are people who have to leave their homes because of war or other big problems. The music in "Boat to Nowhere" paints a picture of these people getting on a small, shaky boat to go to a new place. It's a journey filled with hope, but also a lot of scary unknowns.

## Time Signature

Type Of Beat	Duple Time	Triple Time	Quadruple Time
Crotchet Beat	$\frac{2}{4}$ ♩ ♩	$\frac{3}{4}$ ♩ ♩ ♩	$\frac{4}{4}$ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩

## Major



## Minor



## Instruments



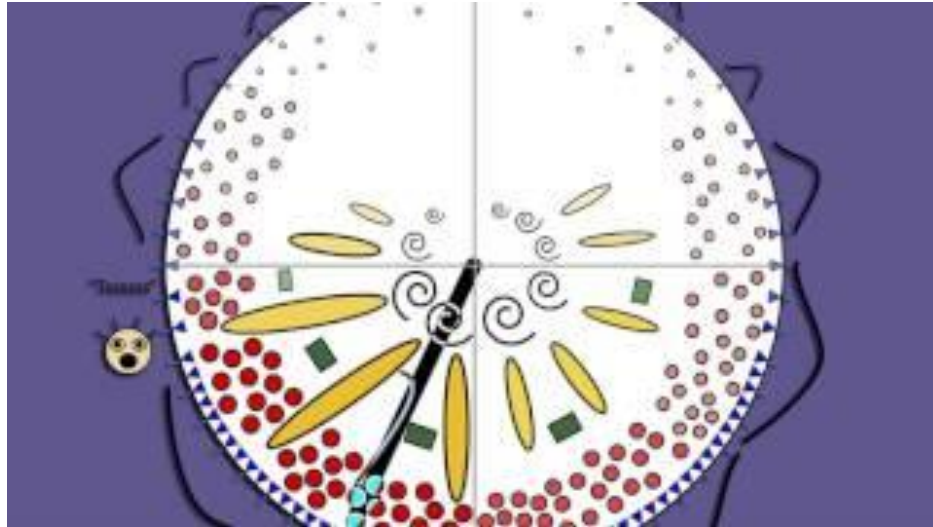
## Live in 2023



## Activity 2: Graphic Score

We're going to create a graphic score while listening to Boat to Nowhere.

Let's have a look at an example of a graphic score! Does it represent the music?



# Second Listening: Boat to Nowhere

We're going to listen to "Boat to Nowhere" while creating a graphic score! A graphic score is a way of using symbols to represent music! Draw whatever you feel while listening to the piece! Use colour pencils to add more texture.

Try and capture the emotional nuances in the music. Identify moments of tension, release and emotions conveyed in your graphic score.



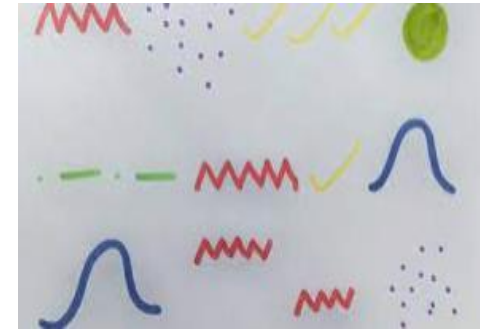
Example 1



Example 2

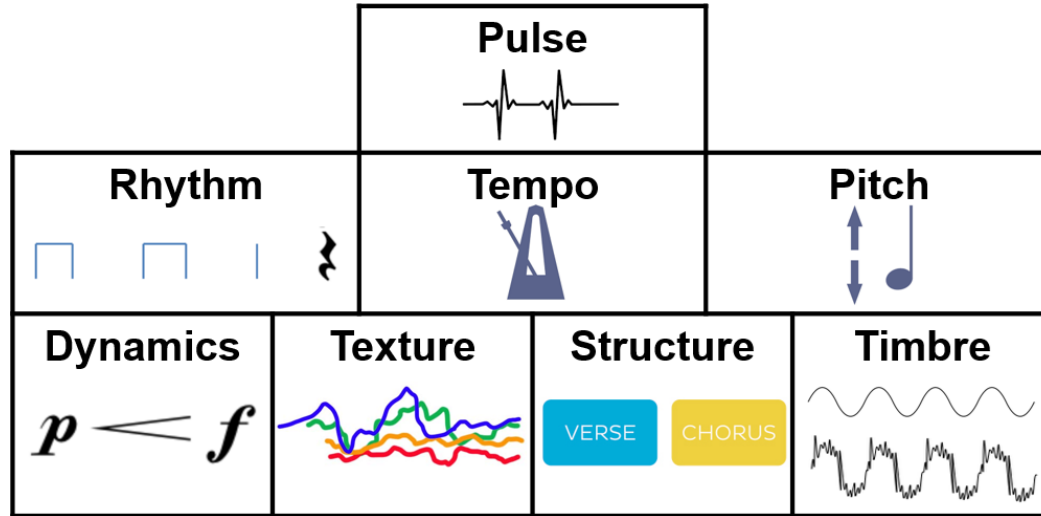


Example 3



# Summary:

What did you enjoy most about this piece?



Can you use any of the elements of music in your answer?

# Summary

How did the piece make you feel?  
Class discussion!

# Session 3

Resources: Music response sheet & pen/pencil

# Let's recap the Elements of Music

## Chant:

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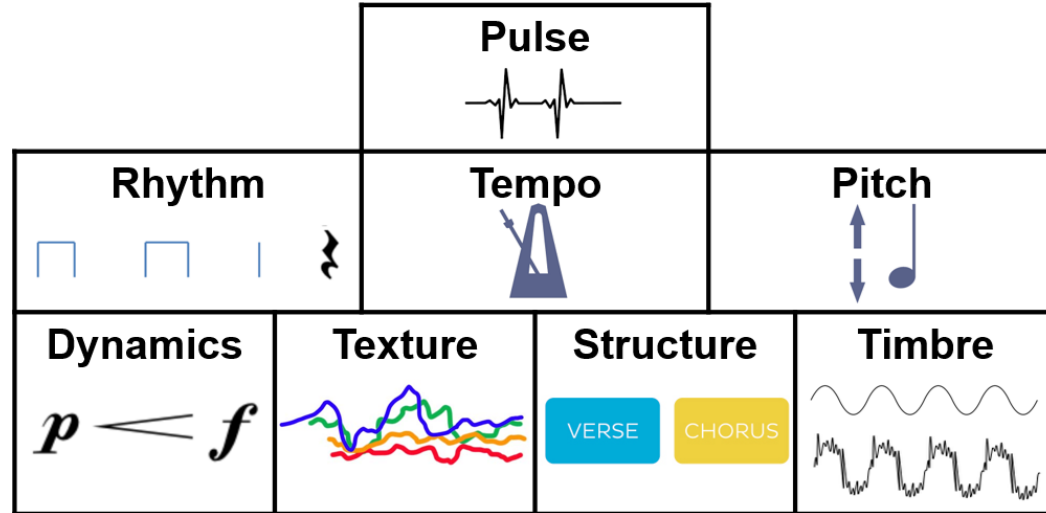
Dynamics are Loud and Soft

Texture is Thick and Thin (how many layers of instruments are present)

## Extra elements to discuss:

Structure - The order of the music (verse/chorus)

Timbre - The tone or quality of the sound.  
Adjectives that describe the sound  
(harsh/smooth/sharp etc).



## What elements of music can you hear in the piece?

# Piece: Traces of You

# Composer: Anoushka Shankar

**Summary:** Traces of You is a personal and moving piece of music that serves as a tribute to Anoushka Shankar's late father (the legendary Ravi Shankar). Released in July 2013, the song features her half-sister, singer-songwriter Norah Jones. The track beautifully blends the classical sound of Anoushka's sitar with Norah's gentle, soulful vocals, creating a unique and heartfelt soundscape. The lyrics speak to the idea that people who have passed away leave behind a lasting "trace" on our lives.

## Time Signature

Type Of Beat	Duple Time	Triple Time	Quadruple Time
Crotchet Beat	$\frac{2}{4}$ ♩ ♩	$\frac{3}{4}$ ♩ ♩ ♩	$\frac{4}{4}$ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩

Major



Minor



## Instruments



Live



# Piece: Traces of You

# Composer: Anoushka Shankar



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Piece: \_\_\_\_\_

This is what I imagine when I listen to the piece

Describe this piece using two words.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

The composer uses the following instruments:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

<b><i>p</i></b> piano quiet	<b><i>mf</i></b> mezzo forte medium loud	<b><i>f</i></b> forte loud
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This music makes me feel:

	angry		scared
	happy		sleepy
	sad		loved

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Adagio</b> slow (60-90)		<b>Moderato</b> medium (100-150)		<b>Allegro</b> quickly and bright (150-200)	
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What are the dynamics of the music? Are there quiet and loud parts? Describe the changes.

beginning	middle	end
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Did you like this piece of music?

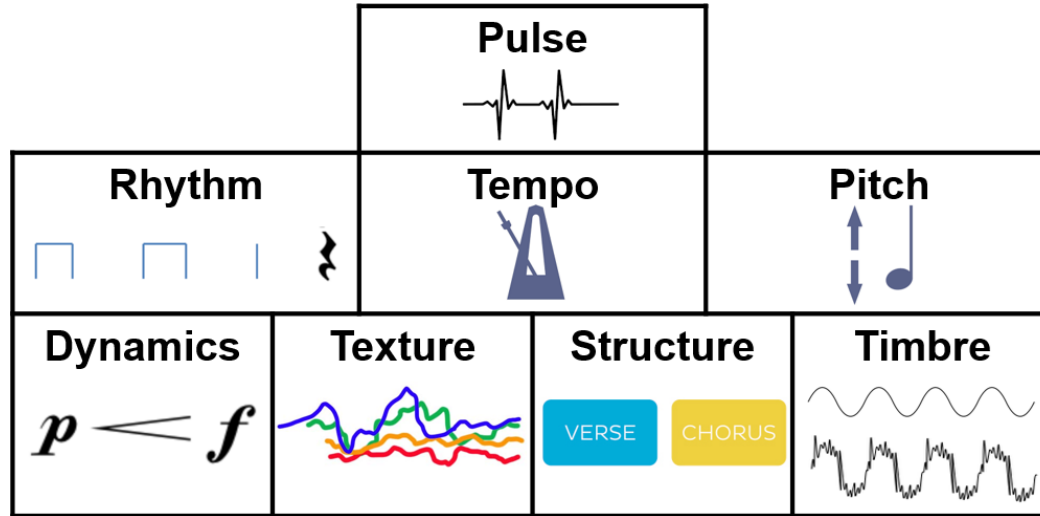
Explain why: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the tempo of the music? How fast or slow is it? Describe the changes.

beginning	middle	end
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

# Summary:

What did you enjoy most about this piece?



Can you use any of the elements of music in your answer?

# Summary

What do we know and remember?

# Test the Knowledge

1. Who is Anoushka Shankar's father?
2. What instrument does she play?
3. What famous event did she perform at in August 2025?
4. Where was she born?
5. Who is her sister?



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