



DEFYING GRAVITY

STEPHEN SCHWARTZ
(2003)

VOCABULARY LIST

PERFORMING FORCES

- **Tremolo:** The continuous, rapid repetition of a pitch or alternating pitches.
- **Stabbed chords:** Loud, detached chord.
- **Staccato:** Play in a short and detached manner.
- **Legato:** Play in a smooth and connected manner.
- **Overdrive:** A guitar effect that produces a deliberately distorted sound.
- **Sforzando:** An accent to be played with greater force.

TEXTURE

- **Unison:** More than one part playing the same melody at the same pitch.
- **Contrapuntal:** A polyphonic texture where the parts play against each other and interweave.
- **Monophonic:** A single line which can be played or sung by several people.
- **Homophonic:** Melody and accompaniment.
- **Colla voce:** Band follows the vocalist's tempo.

RHYTHM, METRE AND TEMPO

- **Rallentando:** Slow down.
- **A tempo:** Back to the original speed.
- **Syncopation:** Emphasising beats of the bar that are normally unaccented.
- **Triplet:** 3 notes played in the time of 2.
- **Fermata:** Pause on a note or rest.



DEFYING GRAVITY

STEPHEN SCHWARTZ
(2003)

VOCABULARY LIST

MELODY

- **Ostinato:** A rhythmic, melodic or harmonic pattern repeated many times in succession.
- **Leitmotif:** A musical idea that is associated with a person, object, place or emotion.
- **Compound interval:** An interval extending over more than an octave.
- **Angular:** Movement by leaps.
- **Sequence:** The immediate repetition at a different pitch of a melody.
- **Conjunct:** Movement by step.
- **Syllabic:** One note per syllable
- **Vocalisation:** Wordless singing using a vowel syllable.
- **Fanfare:** A celebratory piece for brass instruments often marking the opening of an important event or ceremony.
- **Motif:** A short distinctive melody or rhythm used in different ways to form longer passages of music.

HARMONY AND TONALITY

- **Chromatic:** Notes that do not belong to the key or move by semitones.
- **Dissonance:** Sounds that are not pleasant when played together.
- **Pedal:** A sustained or repeated note sounded against changing harmonies.
- **Bitonal:** When two different keys are used simultaneously.
- **Augmented chord**
- **Circle of 5ths:** A series of chords where the roots are a 5th higher or lower from the previous one.
- **Interrupted cadence:** Chord V(7) followed by any chord except I. Sounds surprising.