

Describing Tools for Music:

1) Sample Music choices and Describing Words

- adapt this sheet to the choices your students will be making

2) Example of Adapted Sheet: Rima Fand's Violin Warmup



Notice the choices kids make about	Name their choices with DESCRIBING WORDS
Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loud (forte)/Medium loud (mezzo forte) • Soft (piano)/Medium soft (mezzo piano) • Loud/Soft as possible! (fortissimo/pianissimo) • Getting gradually louder (crescendo) • Getting gradually softer (diminuendo) • Suddenly loud/soft (subito forte/piano)
Pitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High • Low • Big jumps/small jumps • Ascending/Descending
Timbre (sound quality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooth/Rough • Clear/Foggy • Full/Thin • Round/Sharp • Scratchy/ Slidey/Wiggly • Shrill/Gentle • Agitated/Calm
Articulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short (staccato) • Sustained (tenuto) • Sharp (accented) • Notes connected (legato) • Notes with pauses between them • Gliding (glissando) • Forceful (marcato)
Rhythm or Rhythmic Feel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tempo: Fast/Moderate/Slow • pulse: Steady/Changing/Without • Freely (rubato) • Driving forward/Laying back • Swing rhythm/Straight rhythm • Flowing/Halting

Describing Tool- Rima Fand's Violin warmup

Notice the choices kids make about	Name their choices with DESCRIBING WORDS
Pitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• notes: high, medium, low• walking up, walking down (by step)• big jumps up or down• staying on one note• sliding between notes
Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• loud, strong• quiet, gentle
Articulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• long notes, short notes• notes connected, notes separate• smooth, sharp
Rhythmic Feel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• speed: fast, moderate, slow• speeding up, slowing down• steady, changing