

# Music Aptitude At a Glance

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## Definitions:

**Music Aptitude:** Potential to achieve in music. (Gordon, 2012, p. 404).

**Music Achievement:** Accomplishment in music. (Gordon, 2012, p. 403).

- Music aptitude is different than music achievement.
  - Music aptitude represents one's potential to learn to audiate.
  - Music achievement represents what one has learned to audiate.
- Technical proficiency is not the same as music achievement.
  - Technical proficiency is the skill for demonstrating music achievement.
- Audiation is fundamental to music aptitude and music aptitude is fundamental to music achievement. There is an hierarchy.
- Technical Proficiency → Music Achievement → Music Aptitude → Audiation.

## Developmental Music Aptitude

- Innate potential to learn music
- Malleable
- Never higher than at the moment of birth

## Stabilized Music Aptitude

- Stable, fixed at around age 9
- Learning occurs at slower rate
  - Compensatory music education

## Measuring Music Aptitude

- **Developmental Music Aptitude Tests**
  - Audie – 3 to 4 years
  - Primary Measures of Music Aptitude (PMMA) – 5 to 8 years / Kindergarten to Grade 3
  - Intermediate Measures of Music Aptitude (IMMA) – 6 to 11 years / Grades 1 to 6
- **Stabilized Music Aptitude Tests**
  - Music Aptitude Profile (MAP) – 9 years to High School / Grades 4 – 12
  - Advanced Measures of Music Aptitude (AMMA) – Adult / Grade 7 →

## Why Measure Music Aptitude?

- To understand the musical profile of our students so we can teach to their unique, individual musical differences
  - If a child has a lower rhythm aptitude, we can provide extra support in this area
  - If a child has a higher tonal aptitude, we can encourage them to create and improvise sooner
- To diagnose individual students' specific musical strengths and weaknesses
- **NEVER use results to exclude a child from music study or music experience.**

### **Learning Sequence Activities and Music Aptitude**

- The Learning Sequence Activities that we do with our students are geared to their level of music aptitude. This is what allows us to teach to their individual musical differences

### **Music Aptitude Profile (MAP)**

- Gordon concluded there are 3 *major*\* areas that comprise music aptitude – 7 subtests.
- Tonal Aptitude
  - Melody
  - Harmony
- Rhythm Aptitude
  - Tempo
  - Meter
- Musical Sensitivity
  - Phrasing
  - Balance
  - Style

\*There are no fewer than 32 different music aptitudes that have been identified.