

Technical Note Names

Music can be likened to a language as it is spoken or communicated to the listener by musicians in their playing. When it is written down as sheet music it can be read like a passage of text would be and in the hands of a competent musician, when performed can closely represent what the composer intended. This is because musicians around the world all speak the same language and it's this language we are going to learn a little more of now.

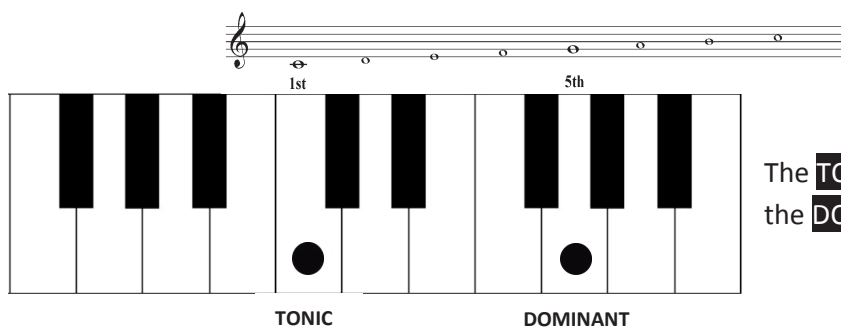
In earlier grades we have come across questions on the degrees of the scale (1st, 2nd, 5th etc) but for **Grade 5**, you will need to know the **Technical Names** for each of these notes.

Here are the names for the seven notes of any scale:

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
TONIC	SUPER TONIC	MEDIANT	SUBDOMINANT	DOMINANT	SUB MEDIANT	LEADING NOTE

They can look quite confusing to start but with the help of the method I use with my students you should find remembering them is quite easy...and logical.

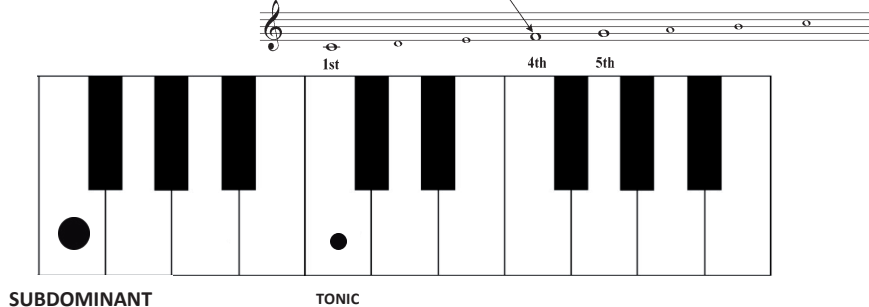
Let us take the first and probably the second most important notes in music, the **TONIC** and **DOMINANT**. Below the notes are indicated on a piano and for ease of understanding the scale being used is **C Major**



The **TONIC** starts the scale off and the **DOMINANT** is a **FIFTH ABOVE**.

To explain the **SUBDOMINANT** we start again with the **TONIC** and this time go a **FIFTH BELOW**.

Now the **SUBDOMINANT** has been explained it is repositioned in the scale as shown here.



This is the under DOMINANT to the TONIC or SUBDOMINANT.



Remember! The **DOMINANT** is a **FIFTH ABOVE** the **TONIC** and the **SUBDOMINANT** is a **FIFTH BELOW**