

Y9 Music Cycle 1

WK1	<p>Blues – Origins evolved from the Southern States of USA in the late 19th Century with influences from Africa. Slaves were brought over to America in 1619 against their will and were separated from their families. They were forced onto crowded ships and treated very poorly being forced to do hard labour. To make the time pass faster, slaves began singing songs called work songs. Following African custom, the leader would sing a chant and the other workers would repeat. Commonly known as “call and response”. Lines of their songs were often repeated as their music was improvised (made up on the spot) and this allowed the singers to think up their next line while repeating the previous ones. After slavery had ended in 1865 the conditions for African-Americans were still very poor. During these years, the children and grandchildren of the slaves developed the Blues. Music was passed down generations through oral tradition. Instruments used to accompany vocals in the blues included the guitar and harmonica as they were easy to carry around. Blues music is characterised by sad and woeful lyrics and a guitar technique called slide guitar – a glissando (sliding) effect is achieved by sliding across the strings. Early blues music was very slow and emotional using simple harmonies. Blues was popularised by Bessie Smith and Robert Johnson in 1920 and by the 40’s and 50’s the style had developed further and included a range of other instruments which led to r’n’b (rhythm and blues) and was usually played on electric guitar and bass. Blues melodies uses notes from the blues scale – a minor pentatonic scale and often includes bent notes (flattened notes). The performer improvises over a chord progression (the 12 bar blues) and melismas (several notes sung to one syllable) can be heard in many blues melodies. Minor 7th chords, chord extensions and dissonant harmonies are typical. Blues music is often in 4/4 with syncopation (stress on weak beats), swing rhythms and walking basslines.</p>
WK2	<p>Jazz – Like Blues music, Jazz uses a lot of 7th chords, chord extensions and dissonance (notes that clash together). Early Jazz usually uses a 4/4 time signature but later more complex time signatures are used eg 5/4 in Take Five. Complex rhythms including triplets and dotted rhythms are common. As Blues evolved into Jazz many musicians wanted to push the boundaries. Jazz styles such as swing and bebop are very fast in tempo. Free Jazz had players in the same ensemble playing at different tempos. Break sections are used to link short solo passages to the chorus.</p>
WK3	<p>Jazz – The type of instruments used depends on the type of jazz genre. Typical setups include: Jazz Band: trumpet, trombone, clarinet, rhythm section (bass guitar, drum kit and keyboard/guitar) Swing Band: saxophones, trumpets, trombones, rhythm section Jazz trio – piano, bass, drums.</p> <p>Vocalists use scat singing to improvise and imitate instrumental sound. Early jazz had a homophonic texture, as the style developed the texture became more polyphonic (eg in Haitian Fight Song by Charles Mingus). Stab chords are short staccato chords that usually last for 1 beat and are played by brass instruments.</p>
WK4	<p>Film – Key composers: John Williams and John Barry. Film music composers use musical elements (tempo, texture, dynamics, timbre, rhythm, melody, harmony) to create mood and atmosphere, tell the story and match on screen action. Eg a superhero scene might use major key, brass fanfares, loud dynamics, accents, 4th and 5th intervals. Theme – main tune/melody. Motif – short musical idea (melodic or rhythmic). Mickey-Mousing – music matches on screen action exactly. Leitmotif – recurring musical idea linked to character/object eg Darth Vader’s motif in Star Wars. Conjunct – step wise melodic movement. Disjunct – leaps in melody. Pedal note – long sustained note often in the bass/low notes. Ostinato – short, repeated pattern. Diegetic – sound that the on screen characters can hear. Non diegetic – sound only the audience can hear. Consonant – notes sound “good” together. Dissonant – notes “clash”. Chromatic harmony – lots of semitones/accidentals. Families of the orchestra – Strings (Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass), Brass (Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tuba), Woodwind (Flute Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon), Percussion (Bass drum, snare drum, triangle, cymbal, timpani, glockenspiel).</p>
WK5	<p>Film – Early films were black and white (silent cinema) accompanied by a pianist on a cottage piano or sometimes a whole orchestra. First live music film was Louis Lumière’s The Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat Station in Paris 1895. Audiences enjoyed orchestral accompaniment that it led to the cinema organ so only one performer was needed. Started off as improvised music but musical accompaniments began compiling scores from existing concert, operatic and ballet music from the Western Classical Tradition. This was due to saving cost and the fact that music of the Romantic Period in the 19th Century were already programmatic and descriptive in nature (perfect for film). Film directors realised music had to be integrated with the film so in 1910’s and 20’s composers began writing their own original scores for films. Films with sound “talkies” introduced in 20’s. The first full-length, commercially successful “talkie” was The Jazz Singer (1927) which contained an instrumental score, sound effects, dialogue and singing. About a decade later, “talkies” had almost completely replaced silent film.</p>
WK6	<p>Reggae – Originated in Jamaica. Key artists: Bob Marley, Desmond Dekker. Form of rock music. Influences of traditional Jamaican music and American rhythm ‘n’ blues. 3 main styles that influenced Reggae are Mento, Rocksteady and Ska. Mento is a style of Jamaican folk music, popular in the 50’s. It has strophic form (repetition of a musical section, often 3 or more times), light-hearted lyrics with offbeat chords on guitar/banjo eg in Nebuchadnezzar by Laurel Aitken. Ska is a fast dance style with offbeat chords that emerged in the 50’s. Lyrics usually about serious social issues. It has the folk elements of Mento mixed with electric guitars and the horn sections of rhythm ‘n’ blues. Rocksteady is a slower style from mid 60’s succeeding Ska. Features a loud, repeated melody on bass guitar (riff). Offbeat chords emphasised and political lyrics.</p>
WK7	<p>Reggae – Emerged in the late 60’s. Typically 4/4 with heavy accents placed on the 2nd and 4th beats of the bar. Strophic form (repeated verse and chorus). Typical rock setup – vocals, backing vocals, electric guitars, bass guitar and drum kit. Prominent riff played on bass guitar, simple chord sequences, references to Rastafari (Jamaican religion).</p>