

Knowledge Organiser: Celebrations



Topic Background

Music is enjoyed all around the world and plays an integral part in the dancing and enjoyment of festivals and celebrations. Music holds tales connected to the traditions of the country which are passed down through generations. Its powerful, emotional connections mean that it is often momentous in bringing communities together. Each culture has its own style of music with different features.

Key Features

Traditional Chinese: Chinese New Year



- pentatonic scale
- drone
- ostinato, melodic and/or rhythmic
- melody

pentatonic scale

C D E G A

Bhangra: Punjabi Weddings



- use of Dha, Ge and Na
- chaal
- fast tempo
- rhythmic ostinato
- break



dhol

right hand tilli na
left hand dagga ge
both hands tilli and dagga dha

Samba: Rio Carnival

- syncopation
- polyrhythm
- call and response
- lively fast tempo
- 2/4 time



ganza
agogo
tamborim
surdo
apito

Irish Reel: St Patrick's Day

- repetitive melody
- drone
- rhythmic ostinato



bodhran
spoons (often called bones)
fiddle
flute

Listening Pieces

- Drowsy Maggie, The Chieftains
- Drowsy Maggie, Sean Softley
- Music for Chinese Lion Dance, The Chinese Orchestra of Beijing Central

Musical Knowledge

Note values

semibreve: 4 beats
minim: 2 beats
crotchet: 1 beat
quaver: 1/2 beat
semi quaver: 1/4 beat

The number of beats in a bar. In this case four.

The type of note used to count the beat (beat duration).

C D E F G A B C D E F G A

Key Vocabulary

- accent:** a note or beat that is played louder
- ascending:** moving up in pitch
- break:** a break is a different rhythm that will appear every now and then to keep the music exciting.
- call and response:** two phrases, the first phrase being the call and the second phrase is a response to the first
- compose:** to write or create music
- descending:** moving down in pitch
- ensemble:** a group of performers
- genre:** a style or category of music
- ostinato:** a musical phrase or rhythm which is repeated
- perform:** to show others your music
- phrasing:** indicates where the singer should breathe, connecting or grouping several notes or rhythms to create a sequence of sounds that sound pleasing
- polyrhythm:** when two or more rhythms play at the same time
- reel:** music notated into simple time, either 2/2 or 4/4 time signature
- structure:** how the music is organised
- sustain:** hold
- syncopation:** playing on the off-beat
- tempo:** how fast or slow the music is
- texture:** how the different layers of the music combine to give an overall effect
- time signature:** tells us how many beats are in each bar and which note value is to be given one beat