

# Year 7 Magical Musical Journey: MUSIC

Performers BLUES: Lead Belly, Lemon Jefferson, Robert Johnson

Performers R 'n' R: Chuck Berry, Bill-Haley and the Comets

## AFRICAN

Music is an important part of traditional African life. The styles of music vary across the countries of Africa.

The music features a number of percussion instruments

Percussive instruments are a part of life in some African societies.

Traditionally African Music has been used for:

ceremonies of all occasions, from celebrating birth to respecting the dead, calling to arms in wars, religious rites and rituals, communicating across distances

Music and dance are an integral part of the African culture.

They used to and still provide a valuable way to communicate with workers in the fields or pass messages to other villages.

The music is also used for storytelling, welcoming heroes, and religious ceremonies.

Music is seen to illustrate the importance of human life, to connect people and to support the sense of community.

Music and dance are mainly performed by large groups in villages. Singing and chant is a large part of African music.

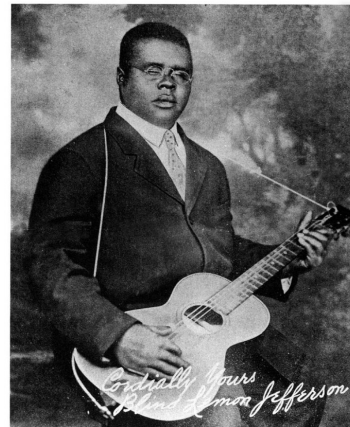
The percussion music is polyrhythmic, cross rhythmic, heavily syncopated and is built around ostinati. Call and response is used heavily.

The music is taught through families, passing down techniques through generations

Vocal music of Africa has influenced gospel music of today. It often uses chant. It uses also uses call and response.



**Lead Belly**



**Blind Lemon Jefferson**



**Robert Johnson**

## BLUES

Created at the end of the 19th century, blues music is heavily influenced by African American history.

The original blues music evolved and grew into jazz from the 1920s.

African enslaved people brought their musical traditions with them when they were transported to work in the North American colonies.

African American music included spirituals (religious songs using vocal harmony) and work songs.

Enslaved people would sing work songs while working the plantations and religious spirituals in church.

Work songs were sung rhythmically in time with the task being done.

The early style of blues was known as country blues.

The majority of blues musicians had descendants from Africa

Blues music has had a huge influence on almost every popular musical style.

Many contemporary performers of styles as diverse as hip hop, grime and rhythm 'n' blues cite blues music and blues musicians as key informants for their work.

A blues piece consists of:

Melodies move within the blues scale - pentatonic – 5 notes.

The main performer often improvises over the blues scale

A walking bassline

The piece uses primary chords I, IV and V within the structure of 12 bars blues.

The instruments consist of: Piano, Guitar, Double Bass, Harmonica, Trumpet, Saxophone, Drum Kit.

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## KEY VOCABULARY

**Rhythm** – A collection of beat

**Syncopated** – Rhythms that are off beat

**Poly-rhythmic** – Lots of rhythms

**Cross-rhythmic** – Rhythms that do not naturally fit together

**Ostinato** – A repeated pattern  
**Pulse** – A steady beat within a piece

**Accented** – An emphasised beat

**Percussive** – Instruments that are hit or shaken

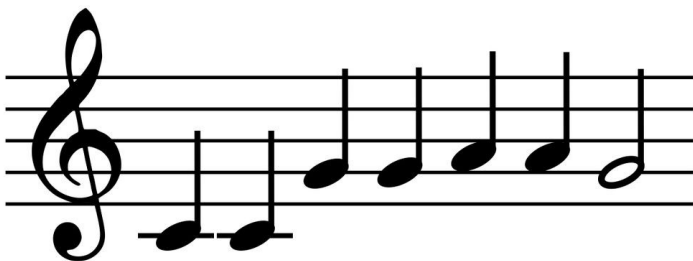
**Call and response** – Question/ answer

**Chord** – More than one note played at the same time

**Improvisation** – when you make it up without preparation

**Melody** – The main tune within a piece

**Bassline** – the lowest part which accompanies the main piece



Chuck Berry



Bill Haley and the Comets

## ROCK AND ROLL

Popular music is a term covering the many different styles and genres of music around since the late 18th Century that are considered to be part of modern everyday culture

Rock 'n' roll is a style of popular music that emerged from America in the 1950s. It has its roots in various African-American styles of music, such as blues, jazz and gospel, and in country music. It was played by both African American and white musicians.

There were many technological developments during this era. Audiences could listen to rock 'n' roll music on the radio and increasingly watch them on television.

The introduction of the electric guitar was a key development in the sound of rock 'n' roll

Teenage culture started to develop in the 1950s.

Lyrics were about subjects such as young love, school, parents and cars. Rock 'n' roll songs allowed young people an opportunity to express their emotions and experiences.

Rock 'n' roll songs were meant for dancing to. They had fast tempos, simple time and syncopated rhythms in the melody.

Instruments that are used in Rock and Roll music are: Piano, acoustic/electric guitar, bass guitar, double bass, vocals, saxophone, trumpet, drum kit.

A rock and roll piece consists of:  
Melody, chords, walking bassline, rhythm and improvisation.  
Rock and Roll music is still based over the 12 bar blues.  
A walking bassline is a repeated pattern based of the structure of 12 bar blues.

The piece uses primary chords I, IV and V within the structure of 12 bars blues.

The music is structured in song form – verse and chorus.  
Rock 'n' roll songs were meant for dancing to. They had fast tempos (approx. 120 crotchet beats per minute), simple time and syncopated rhythms in the melody.