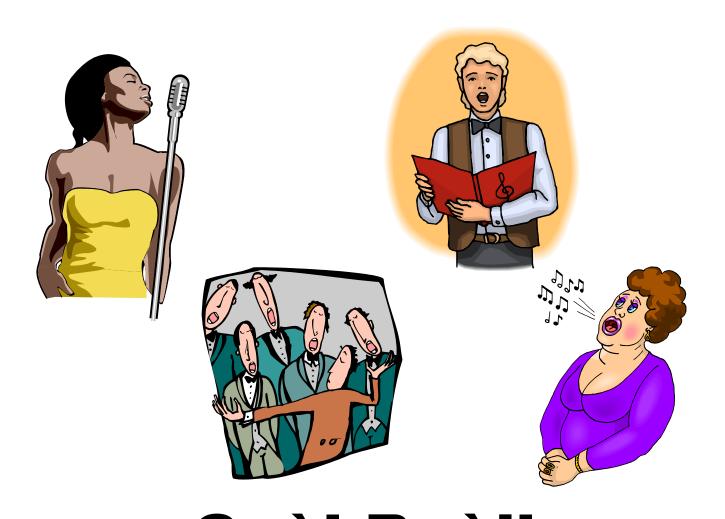
Sgoil Ghàidilig Ghlaschu

Nàiseanta 4 & 5



Ceòl Beòil

Ainm:			
Clas:	Earrann:	Tidsear:	

This unit of work involves studying the main musical features and concepts associated with the **Vocal Music**.



This sign indicates short excerpts of music to illustrate particular musical features or concepts.

What are you going to study in this unit?

Types of voices
 Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass etc.

Vocal Combinations
 Solo, Duet, Choir, Chorus etc.

The Musical

The Opera

Sacred Music
 Oratorio, Cantata and Passion

Scottish Vocal Concepts

 There are also some examples of songs from musicals for you to play or sing (see pages 18 – 25)

Why study Vocal music?

- Vocal music an important aspect of music as it is common to most musical styles.
- In the National 5 listening examination there are generally a number of questions based on vocal music.

Assessment

- Your teacher will be continuously monitoring your progress throughout this unit and your throughout your course.
- You will complete a homework exercise and a listening test at the end of the unit.

A few final notes

- Try to revise your concepts as you are working your way through this unit.
- Listen to a wide range of music and try to identify the concepts you hear.
- Keep your work up to date.
- Enjoy listening!

Types of Voice

The 4 main types of voice are:



Soprano: High Female Voice

Alto: Low Female Voice

Tenor: High Male Voice

Bass: Low Male Voice

These four main types of voice form the basis of a standard choir, often referred to as **SATB**.



Listen to some examples of different types of voices:

Soprano: Charlotte Church: Summertime from Porgy and Bess by Gershwin

Alto: Bessy Smith: Nobody knows when you're down and out

Tenor: Jesu komm zu deiner Kirche from *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*

Bass: Men were ashamed...Go down Moses from A Child of Our Time by

Tippett

Written Exercise

Complete	the f	ollowing	state	ment	s by	/ fil	lling in the blanks:	
4							.1	

1. The highest type of male voice is the ______.

2. The lowest type of female voice is the ______.

3. The highest type of female voice is the _____.

4. The lowest type of male voice is the ______.

Listening Exercise 1

Listen carefully to the following excerpts of music.

Soprano

For each excerpt of music you should identify the type of voice. Choose from:

Alto

	Soprano	Alto	
	Tenor	Bass	
1.	This is an example of a/a	an	
2.	This is an example of a/a	an	
3.	This is an example of a/a	an	
4.	This is an example of a/a	an	
5.	This is an example of a/a	an	
6.	This is an example of a/a	an	
7.	This is an example of a/a	an	
8.	This is an example of a/a	an	
9.	This is an example of a	/an	
10.	This is an example of a	/an	
		Total out of 10	

Other Types Of Voices

Counter Tenor: Baritone:		Very High Male Voice Male voice in between Tenor and Bass (middle range)		
(Listen to some	examples of these other type	pes of voices:	
Co	ezzo-soprano: ounter Tenor: oritone:	Cam dederit from Nisi Dor	Marriage of Figaro by Mozart minus by Handel e Barber of Seville by Rossini	
<u>Wr</u>	itten Assignment			
Со	mplete the following	statements by filling in the	blanks:	
1.	• •	•	ass but lower than a tenor is a	
2.	The highest type of	 female voice is a		
3.	The type of female	voice that is higher than ar	n alto but lower than a soprano	
	is a	•		
4.	The lowest type of r	male voice is the	·	
5.	A very high male vo	oice is the	·	
6.	The lowest type of f	emale voice is the	·	
Lis	stening Exercise 2			
Lis	ten to the following	three excerpts of music ar	nd decide what type of voice is	
sin	ging in each. Tick o i	ne box in each column.		
a	n) Mezzo Sopra	no b) Soprano	c) Soprano	
	Alto	Alto	Mezzo Soprano	
	Baritone	Counter Teno	r Counter Tenor	
	Bass	Bass	Bass	

Vocal Combinations

Some common terms that can be applied to combinations of voices are used in many different styles of music.

Solo:	Someone sing			
Duet:	Two people singing together.			
Choir:	A group of people singing together.			
Unison: The same notes sung at the same time, or an octave apHarmony: Two or more notes sung together at the same time.				
A capella:	Unaccompan	_	getilei at tile	Same ume.
н сарсна.	Onaccompan	ica sirigirig.		
Listen to	some example	es of different	vocal combin	ations:
Solo: Duet: Choir: Unison: Harmony: A capella:	Ella Fitzgerald The Last Night I Swear by F For the beaut An example of An unaccomp	ht of the World Myers/G Bake by for the earth of a hymn	d from <i>Miss</i> S er h by John Rut	Saigon.
Listening Exerc	ise 3			
Listen to the follo that best describe	_	cerpts of mus	ic and tick o	ne box in each column
a) Solo voi	ice b)	Solo voi	ce c)	Solo voice
Duet		Duet		Duet
Choir		Choir		Choir
Listening Exerc	ise 4			
Listen to the follo that describe the	•	erpts of musi	c and tick tw o	o boxes in each column
a) Unison	b)	Unison	c)	Unison
Harmon	У	Harmon	y	Harmony
A capell	la	A capella	а	A capella
Accomp	anied	Accomp	anied	Accompanied

The Musical

A musical is a theatrical stage production involving a combination of music and drama. Musicals have been popular throughout the 20th Century due to their entertaining storylines, costumes and popular music.

Written Exercise

Can you name any musicals?



Main Features

- ★ Singing (and dancing) Solo, Duet and Chorus (large group of singers)
- ★ Spoken Word Dialogue
- ★ Accompanied by Orchestra, Band, or small instrumental group
- ★ Costumes and Scenery

	most important features:
*	The Phantom of the Opera:
*	West Side Story:

Listen to some examples from Musicals and try to identify some of the

★ Les Miserables:_____

★ Miss Saigon:_____

★ Grease:_____

<u>Listening Exercise 5</u>

Listen to the following three excerpts of music and tick **two** boxes in each column that best describes the music.

a) Solo voice	b) Soprano	c) Duet
Duet	Harmony	Chorus
A capella	Duet	Orchestra
Accompanied	Chorus	Unison

Songs from West Side Story

West Side Story is one of the most popular musicals of all time. It is a modern version of the Romeo and Juliet story, set in New York in the late 1950's against a backdrop of violence and bitterness between two rival gangs; The Jets and the Sharks.

Tony (a member of the Jets, a gang led by Riff) falls in love with Maria (a beautiful Puerto Rican immigrant whose brother, Bernardo, is the leader of the Sharks).





The musical begins with an instrumental *Prologue* in which the two gangs provoke one another with finger-snaps, jeers and whistles. Listen for the use of **discords** and **syncopated** rhythms.

This leads into the *Jets Song* in which Riff, and the other gang members, sing about how good it is to belong to a gang. Notice the **cross rhythms** in this song: the vocal line has a feeling of **3 beats in a bar**, while the **accompaniment** has a feeling of **2**. Notice also that the **accompaniment** uses a lot of **discords**, suggesting aggression and violence:



At the Dance at the Gym, Tony and Maria meet for the first time. Walking home, Tony sings of his love for Maria. The song starts with a **recitative** style introduction:



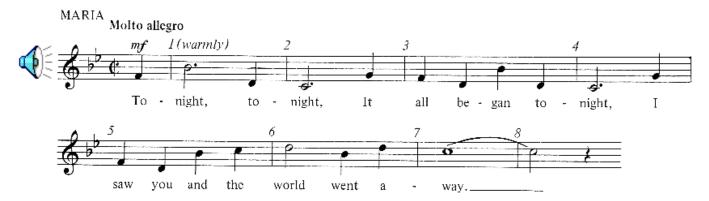
The most beautiful sound I have ever heard: Maria...

All the beautiful sounds of the world in a single word: Maria...

This leads directly into what is, in effect, and aria:



Tony goes looking for Maria. The famous *Romeo and Juliet* "balcony scene" now takes place on the rusty fire escape of a New York tenement building. Tony and Maria sing their **duet**:



The Sharks meet with their girlfriends and they argue about the advantages of living in America, as opposed to living back home in Puerto Rico. Notice the interesting changes in metre as the song keeps alternating between compound time (6/8) and simple time (3/4):



Opera

Many composers wrote operas. An **Opera** is a large-scale work for solo singers, chorus and orchestra, with scenery and costumes, that tells a story. It is thought that **opera** originated in Florence, Italy at the end of 16th Century. The majority of operas have similar features.

Main Features

- ★ Singing Solo, Duet and Chorus (large group of singers)
- ★ Recitative
- ★ Aria
- ★ Accompanied by Orchestra
- ★ Costumes and Scenery

Examples

- ★ The Marriage of Figaro, Mozart
- ★ Madam Butterfly, Puccini
- ★ Carmen, Bizet

Opera / Vocal Concepts

Recitative: Uses free speech-like rhythm. Sung by a soloist to tell the story.

Aria: Solo song. Repetition of words and decoration of melody.

Chorus: Main group of singers singing together.



Listen to some examples from operas:

Recitative: Thy Hand Belinda... from Dido and Aeneas by Purcell Aria: O mio babbino caro from Gianni Schicchi by Puccini

Chorus: Anvil Chorus from Il trovatore by Verdi

Listening Exercise 6

Listen to the following three excerpts of music and tick **one** box in each column to describe the music.

a) Recitative	b) Recitative	c) Recitative
Aria	Aria	Aria
Chorus	Chorus	Chorus



These following concepts can be found not only in operas, but also in other vocal styles.

Syllabic: Vocal music where each syllable is given one note only.

Welisma: Vocal music where several notes are sung to each syllable.

The parts or voices moving together in the same rhythm.

A combination of 2 or more parts, moving independently in

rhythm and melody.



Listen to some examples of these vocal concepts.

<u>V</u>	/ritten Exercise			
С	complete the following statements by filling in the blanks:			
1.	An important solo song in an opera is called an			
2.	A group of people singing together is called a			
3.	A group singing without any instrumental accompaniment is called			
4.	Vocal music in which a number of notes are sung to one syllable is known as			
5.	Voices singing in harmony when all the parts are moving together in the same rhythm is called			
6.	A vocal solo using speech-like rhythm is called a			
7.	A group of people singing the same melody are singing in			
	A combination of 2 or more voices, moving independently in rhythm and			
	melody is called			
<u>L</u>	istening Exercise 7			
Listen to the following three excerpts of music and tick one box in each column to describe the texture of the music.				
	a) Solo Solo C) Solo			
	Homophony Homophony Homophony			
	Polyphony Polyphony Polyphony			

Sacred Music

Oratorio, Cantata and Passion

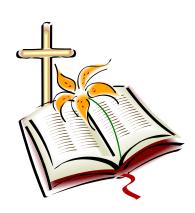
The **oratorio**, **cantata** and **passion** are all examples of sacred music. That means they are all based on religious stories, generally taken from the bible.

Oratorio - Main Features

- ★ Singing Solo and Chorus (large group of singers)
- ★ Recitative
- ★ Aria
- ★ Accompanied by Orchestra
- ★ Based on a religious story, usually taken from the bible



Listen to some examples from Messiah by Handel.



Cantata - Main Features

- ★ Singing Solo and Chorus (large group of singers)
- ★ Recitative
- ★ Aria
- ★ Chorale (a harmonised Hymn tune)
- ★ Accompanied by Orchestra
- ★ Smaller Scale to Oratorio
- ★ Often sung in German



Listen to some examples from Christmas Cantata by Bach.

Passion - Main Features

- ★ Singing Solo and Chorus (large group of singers)
- ★ Recitative
- **★** Aria
- ★ Chorale (a harmonised Hymn tune)
- ★ Accompanied by Orchestra
- ★ Tells the story of the crucifixion of Christ





Listen to some examples from St. John Passion by Bach.



Written Exercise

Complete the following stat	ements by filling in the b	olanks:			
1. A large-scale work cl	noral work based on a s	tory from the bible is called an			
2. A small-scale work of	2. A small-scale work choral work based on a story from the bible is called				
3. A choral work based	specifically on the stor	ry of the crucifixion is called a			
Listening Exercise 8	 				
Listen to the following three in each column to describe		an Oratorio and tick one box			
a) Recitative	b) Recitative	c) Recitative			
Aria	Aria	Aria			
Chorus	Chorus	Chorus			
Listening Exercise 9					
Listen to the following three each column to describe w		a Cantata and tick one box in			
a) Recitative	b) Recitative	c) Recitative			
Aria	Aria	Aria			
Chorus	Chorus	Chorus			
Listening Exercise 10					
Listen to the following thre in each column to describe		m a Passion and tick one box			
a) Recitative	b) Recitative	c) Recitative			
Aria	Aria	Aria			
Chorale	Chorale	Chorale			

Drawing on concepts that you have covered in this unit so far complete the following:

Written Assignment

Complete the following statements by filling in the blanks:

1.	A theatrical product	ion featuring a number o	of popular songs is called a		
2.	An important solo song from an opera, oratorio or musical is called an				
3.	Vocal music in which a number of notes are sung to one syllable is known as				
4.			rom the bible is called an		
5.	A hymn tune sung i	 n four-part harmony is ca	alled a		
<u>Liste</u>	ning Exercise 11				
	n to the following e fy features of the mu	-	two boxes in each column to		
a) [Recitative	b) Tenor	c) Solo		
	Aria	Soprano	Duet		
	Chorus	Bass	Chorus		
	Harmony	Recitative	Opera		
	Unison	Aria	Melisma		
d)	Solo	e) Baritone	f) Female voices		
	Duet	Countertenor	Male voices		
	Choir	Bass	Mixed voices		
	Homophony	Recitative	Harmony		
	Polyphony	Aria	Unison		

Scottish Vocal Styles

There are a number of vocal styles associated with Scottish music. **Gaelic Psalm, Waulking Song, Scots Ballad, Mouth Music** and **Bothy Ballad** are some of the concepts that you will need to know. Most Scottish folk songs are either sung in Scots (associated with Lowland Scotland) or Gaelic (from the Highland and Islands).

Gaelic Psalm

- ★ Sung in the Presbyterian Church (in Gaelic)
- ★ Without instrumental accompaniment
- ★ Introduced by a precentor (usually the minister)
- ★ The congregation join in gradually
- ★ Sounds as if they are singing at different times
- ★ Generally unaccompanied



Listen to Martyrs

Waulking Song

- ★ Sung by women at work, beating tweed to strengthen it
- ★ Used to relieve boredom of tedious tasks
- ★ Kept a steady pattern and beat to the work
- ★ Question and Answer / Call and Response



Listen to Were you in the Mountains?



Scots Ballad

- ★ Folk song that tells a story of an important event or a disaster
- ★ Long Verses and short Choruses
- ★ Usually unaccompanied



Listen to The Gypsie Laddies

Mouth Music (Port A Beul)

- ★ Vocal performance providing music to dance and for entertainment
- ★ Words were often humorous, personal and improvised
- ★ Unaccompanied and words often 'diddled' (nonsense)



Listen to Look at Ewan's Coracle

Bothy Ballad

- ★ Songs composed and sung mainly by farm workers who lived together for part of the year in bothies about their work.
- ★ Were a good way for workers to find out where the best jobs, and the worst employers were.
- ★ Were also performed at social gatherings.
- ★ Usually unaccompanied.



Listen to The muckin' o Geordie's Byre

Listening Exercise 12

Listen to the following excerpts of music and tick from **one** box in each case that best describes the Scottish Vocal Style.

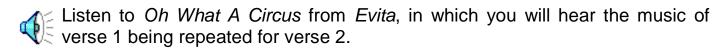
a) Gaelic Psalm	b) Gaelic Psalm	c) Gaelic Psalm
Waulking Song	Waulking Song	Waulking Song
Scots Ballad	Scots Ballad	Scots Ballad
Bothy Ballad	Bothy Ballad	Bothy Ballad
Mouth Music	Mouth Music	Mouth Music
d) Gaelic Psalm	e) Gaelic Psalm	f) Gaelic Psalm
Waulking Song	Waulking Song	Waulking Song
Scots Ballad	Scots Ballad	Scots Ballad
Bothy Ballad	Bothy Ballad	Bothy Ballad
Mouth Music	Mouth Music	Mouth Music

Other concepts associated with vocal music

Some of the following examples are taken from the musical Evita.

Strophic

Many songs are in **strophic** form. This means that the same music is repeated for each verse for each verse.



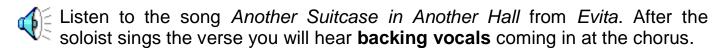
Through-composed

If a song is **through-composed**, the music changes for each verse.

Listen to another excerpt from *Evita*, in which you will hear no repetition of any of the music.

Backing Vocals

Singers who support the lead singer(s) usually by singing in harmony in the background, can be described a backing singers. This kind of background vocal accompaniment can be described as **backing vocals**.



Scat Singing

A type of vocal improvisation found in Jazz, often making use of nonsense words. Listen to the song *How High The Moon* sung by Ella Fitzgerald.

<u>Listening Exercise 13</u>

Listen to the following three excerpts of **one** box in each column to describe what you hear.

a) Recitative	b) Melisma	c) Scat
Lead vocals	Polyphony	Strophic
Opera	Chorale	Recitative
Backing vocals	Duet	Oratorio
Unison	A capella	Syllabic

Maria from West Side Story

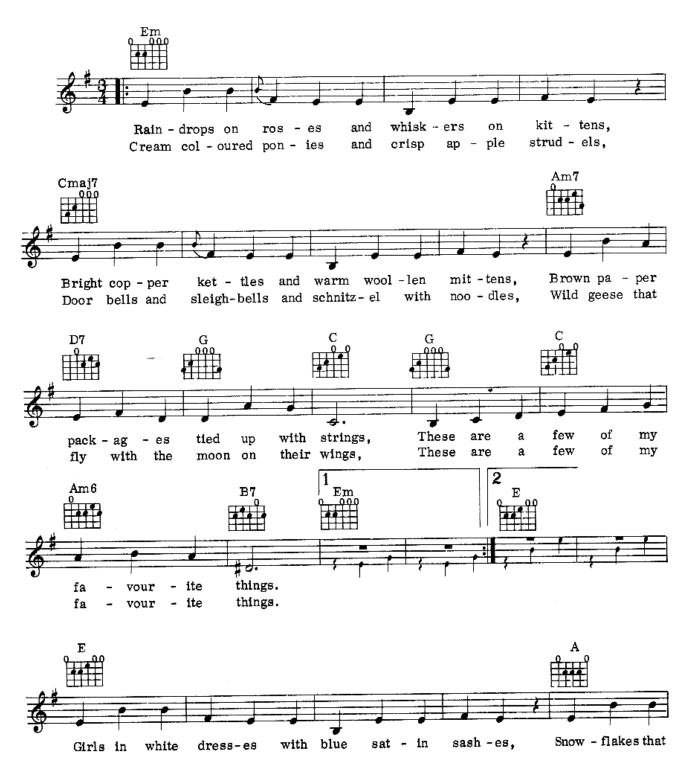


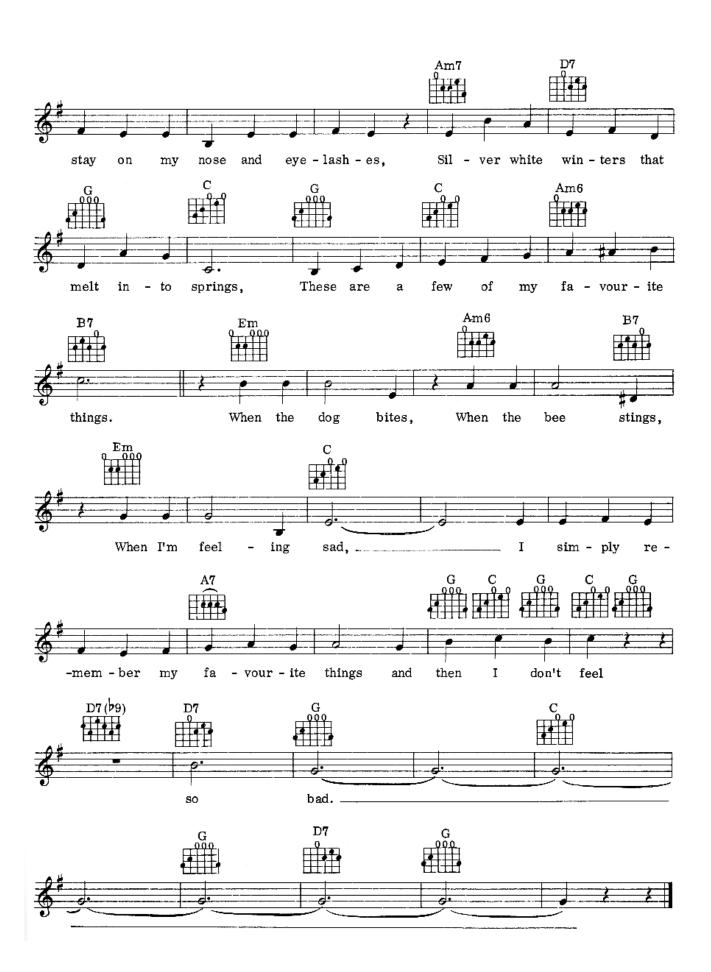
Tonight from West Side Story



My Favourite Things from The Sound Of Music

Notice that this song has three beats in a bar. That makes it a Waltz.

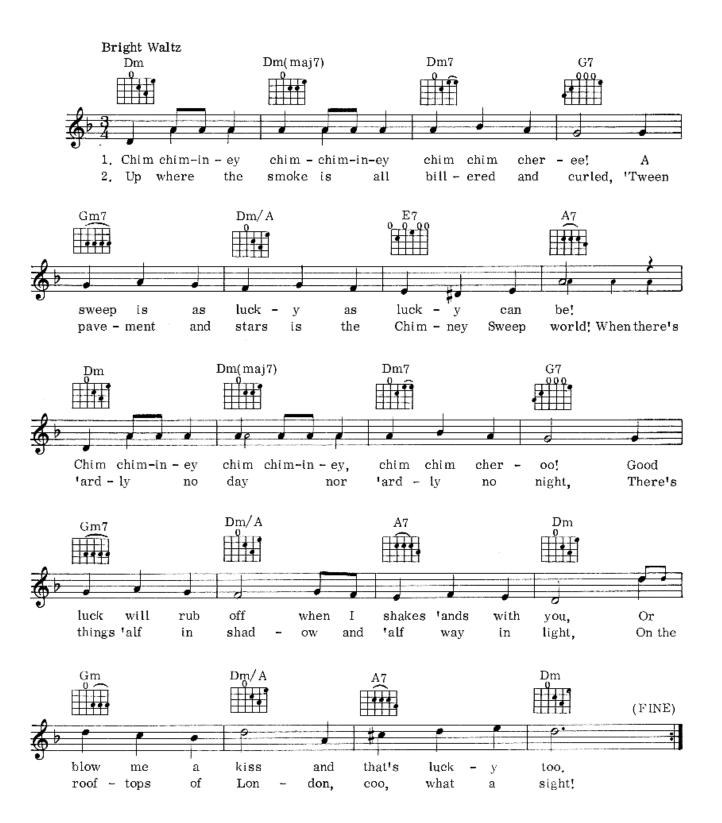




Do-Re-Mi from The Sound Of Music



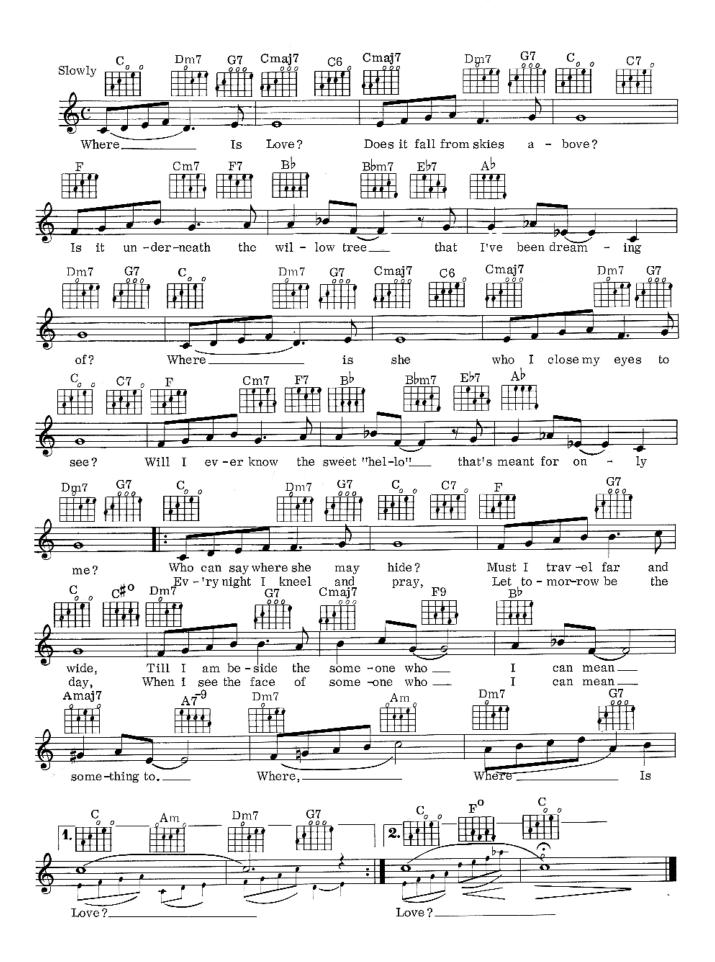
Chim Chim Cher-ee from Mary Poppins



I'd Do Anything from Oliver



Where is Love? from Oliver



Vocal Styles Revision Homework

Complete the following statements by writing appropriate musical concepts in the spaces provided:

1.	A theatrical production featuring a number of popular songs is called a
2.	An important solo song from an opera or oratorio is called an
3.	Vocal music in which a number of notes are sung to one syllable is known as
4.	A song in which the same music is repeated for each verse is known as
5.	A large-scale choral work based on a story from the bible is called an
6.	A Scottish song sung by women at work, beating tweed to strengthen it is called a
7.	A vocal group performing without any instrumental accompaniment is called
8.	Voices singing in harmony when all the parts are moving together in the same rhythm is called
9.	The type of female voice that is higher than an alto but lower than a soprano is called a
10.	Vocal music in which one note is sung to each syllable is known as
11.	A vocal solo that carries forward the story in an opera or an oratorio using speech-like rhythm is called a
12.	Voices singing the same notes at the same pitch are said to be singing in
13.	A traditional song about farm work in Scotland is called a
14.	A combination of several voices, moving independently in rhythm and melody is called

Vocal Styles Revision Homework: "Odd-one-out"

Identify the "odd-one-out" in each of the following, and give a reason for your answer. The first one has been done for you as an example.

a)	Tenor		So	prano	Bass		Barite	one	
The	"odd or	ne out	" is <u>S</u>	oprano_	_ because	all the oth	ners a	are <u>ex</u>	<u>kamples</u>
of m	ale void	es ar	nd Sop	<u>rano is</u>	a female vo	ice.	i		
b)	Orator	rio	Ca	ntata	Opera	l	Pass	ion	
c)	Waulk	ing S	ong	Aria	Bothy	Ballad	M	outh	Music
d)	Aria	CI	horus		Baritone	Recit	ative		
e)	Passio	on	Ca	ntata	Music	al	Chor	ale	
f)	Contra	alto	So	prano	Tenor		Mezz	o-sop	orano
The are	"odd or	ne out"	is		because	all the oth	ners		

Vocal Styles Listening Test

Listen to the following excerpts of music. In each case tick $\underline{\text{one box}}$ in $\underline{\text{column}}$ A to identify a prominent vocal concept and $\underline{\text{two boxes}}$ from $\underline{\text{column B}}$ to indicate two other features of the music.

	Column A	Column B
1	Soprano	Accompanied
	Alto	Unaccompanied
	Tenor	Broken Chords
	Bass	Riff
2	Mezzo-soprano	A capella
	Recitative	Backing vocals
	Lead vocals	Aria
	Cantata	Drum fill
3	Solo voice	Polyphony
	Duet	Melisma
	Voices in Unison	Accompanied
	Voices in harmony	A capella
4	Opera	Chorus
	Musical	Duet
	Chorale	Unison
	Waulking Song	Harmony
5	Oratorio	Unison
	Opera	Harmony
	Musical	A capella
	Bothy Ballad	Aria
		Total out of 15