

Preparation for N5 Listening Exam

Concept Revision : Styles

Blues : Started as Black American Folk music. Often in 4/4 time with a 12 bar chord structure.

Jazz : At first this was the music created by black Americans in the early 20th Century. Some styles include The Blues, Swing and Big Band.

Latin American : Dance music from South America (Latin America.) Percussion instruments provide lively off-beat dance rhythms.

Musical : A musical play which has speaking, singing and dancing and is performed on stage. In recent years the musical has seen a revival and may now deal with very dramatic stories and contain little or no dialogue eg. Phantom of the Opera.

Pop : A style of popular music played by a group of musicians. See pop group and rock band

Rock : A style of popular music with a heavy, driving beat. Usually features electric guitar, bass guitar and drum kit.

Rock 'n' Roll : 1950s American music which grew from the combined styles of jazz, blues, gospel and country.

Scottish : Music which represents various elements of Scottish music.

African music : Much African music features voices and/or African drums.

Baroque : Music from 1650 to 1750 like Bach and Handel. Often features harpsichord.

Concerto : A work written for solo instrument and orchestra eg. a flute concerto is written for flute and orchestra. It is normally in three movements.

Mouth music : Gaelic nonsense words sung in imitation of the bagpipes as an accompaniment to dancing. This was necessary after the 1746 Rising when bagpipes were banned.

Opera : A drama set to music with soloist, chorus, acting and an orchestral accompaniment. It is usually performed in a theatre.

Ragtime : A style of dance music which became popular at the end of the 19th century and which helped to influence jazz. Often features a syncopated melody.

Rapping : Rhyming lyrics that are spoken and performed in time to a beat. Rapping is popular in hip -hop music.

Reggae : Popular music originating in the West Indies; repetitive bass riffs and regular chords played on the off beat by a guitar are prominent features of reggae.

Romantic : In music, the period between 1810 and 1900 approximately, which followed the Classical period. Tchaikovsky was a Romantic composer.

Scots ballad : A slow Scottish song which tells a story, usually in strophic form.

Swing : A jazz style which started in the 1930's. The numbers and types of instruments in the Big bands increased during this period, through the influence of swing.

Aria : A solo song sung in an operatic style, in an opera, oratorio or cantata, with orchestral accompaniment.

Bothy ballad : A folk song, usually with many verses, from north-east Scotland, which is usually sung unaccompanied.

Celtic Rock : A style of music that mixes Celtic folk music and rock together.

Chorus : 1) A group of singers with more than one voice to a part. 2) The music written for these voices. 3) The refrain between the verses of a song.

Classical : A term used to describe/refer to music composed during the period 1750-1810 approximately; the era of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven.

Gaelic psalm : Psalms (hymns) which were sung in Gaelic, unaccompanied.

Gospel : Music written with religious lyrics, often in praise or thanksgiving to God.

Indian music : Music from India which uses instruments such as the sitar and tabla.

Minimalist : A development in the second half of the 20th century based on simple rhythmic and melodic figures which are constantly repeated with very slight changes each time. Quite often features repetition and cross rhythms.

Pibroch : The classical music of the highland bagpipe, always in theme and variation form.

Rock : A style of popular music with a heavy, driving beat. Usually features electric guitar, bass guitar and drum kit.

Symphony : A large work for orchestra, usually in four movements.

Waulking song : A rhythmic song sung in Gaelic by the women in the Western Isles of Scotland while they waulked woolen cloth to soften and shrink it. Often features women singing in unison.