

World Music

Music | National 5

Scotland

Dances

A **jig** is a quick dance in compound time.

> Listen to Aidan Frost play a jig set on accordion.

A **reel** is a quick dance in simple time. It features lots of running quavers.

> Listen to the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra play an eightsome reel.

A **strathspey** is a slower dance with 2 or 4 beats in the bar. It features **Scotch snaps**.

> Listen to Hanneke Cassel Band play a couple of strathspeys.

A **march** is played at a 'marching pace' with 2 or 4 beats in the bar.

> Listen to Scotland the Brave from the Edinburgh Tattoo.

A **waltz** is a slower dance with 3 beats in the bar.

> Listen to "Josephine's Waltz" live from Dingle Music Shop.

Vocal

Bothy ballads were sung by men working on farms. Listen for male voice(s) and lyrics about rural life. Traditionally unaccompanied but may have an accompaniment.

> Listen to Charlie Allen singing "Aikey Brae".

Gaelic psalms were a cappella hymns sung in churches in the Western Isles. A leader (called a 'precentor') leads the singing.

> Listen to Psalm 22 sung by Back Free Church.

Mouth music (or in Gaelic, port à beul) uses made up sounds (called *vocables*) based on Gaelic to sing Scottish tunes. They are often sung a cappella when there are no instruments around!

> Listen to Elizabeth Kaplan sing puirt à beul (plural for port à beul).

Scots ballads are songs that tell stories.

> Listen to Eddi Reader sing "Ae Fond Kiss".

Waulking songs were sung by women *waulking the wool*. Listen for Gaelic vocables and the rhythmic thumping of the cloth on the table.

> Listen to "A Mhorag's Na Horo Gheallaidh" sung by Mary Lomond.

Instruments

An **accordion** has a keyboard on one side and buttons on the other to create chords.

> Listen to the Alexander Brothers play Dark Island.

The **bagpipes** play a melody from the *chanter* and produce a **drone** – one long continuous note. Solos are known as **pibroch** (or in Gaelic, *piobaireachd*).

> Listen to Andrew Carlisle play Fairwell to the Laird of Islay.

A **bodhrán** is a wooden drum, held in one hand and played with a wooden beater.

> Listen to John Joe Kelly's bodhrán solo.

The **clarsach** is a small Scottish harp.

> Listen to Josephine Macdonald play "The Chanter's Song"

The **fiddle** is the same instrument as the violin.

> Listen to Jenna Reid and Aly Bain play "Hector the Hero".

Everything else!

Dances at a ceilidh are led by a **Scottish country dance band**. You will hear accordion, fiddle, acoustic guitar and drum kit.

> Listen to Jim MacLeod and his band play eightsome reels.

Lots of traditional Scottish music is based on the **pentatonic scale**, which has 5 notes. You can find them easily – they're the black keys on the piano.

> Listen to Paul McCartney sing "Mull of Kintyre".

Brazil

Samba is lively percussion music performed in street carnivals every year.

> Listen to Bellini sing "Sambo Do Brasil".

Jamaica

Reggae music has a relaxed feel and accents on beats 2 and 4.

> Listen to Bob Marley sing "One Love".

Trinidad and Tobago

Steel bands make music with empty oil cans bashed into shape.

> Watch Up! Magazine's video on Steel Odyssey.

Africa

The **djembe** is an African drum traditionally made of goat skin. Drum ensembles typically feature **polyrhythms** and **cross rhythms** – when many rhythms weave in and out of each other.

> Listen to the Kusun djembe drum circle practise in Ghana.

India

The **sitar** is a bit like a guitar with 18 – 21 strings and a very long neck. **Tabla** is a pair of drums played with the palms of the hands.

> Listen to Anoushka Shankar play "Pancham Se Gara" on the sitar with a tabla accompaniment.

All of these listening clips are available on YouTube – just search for the composer and the piece name.

Jazz

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The Origins of Jazz

Jazz developed from blues. Instruments like saxophone, trumpet, trombone, double bass and piano play jazz together as a **swing band**.

> Listen to Duke Ellington's swing band play "Take the A Train"

Spirituals were first sung by African slaves in the southern states. The lyrics speak about their hard lives in slavery but also of the hope they have in looking forward to Heaven.

> Listen to Hall Johnson singing "Ain't Got Time to Die".

Gospel music developed from spirituals and is usually sung by choirs. The lyrics are typically joyful, praising God – listen out for Christian themes.

> Listen to the Harlem Gospel Choir singing "O Happy Day".

Blues music sounds just as sad and gloomy as you would expect. Listen for *blue notes* that have been flattened and for instruments like guitar or piano. Blues are usually in a 12 bar structure.

> Listen to T Bone Walker singing "Stormy Monday".

Rhythm/Tempo

Syncopated rhythms focus on the off-beats. They will sound jazzier.

> Listen to Jamie Cullum's "Twentysomething".

Jazz performers will often **improvise** – make melodies up on the spot.

> Listen to the solos in Louie Armstrong's "Hello Dolly".

Melody/Harmony

Jazz performers will often **improvise** – make melodies up on the spot. They use a set chord progression and the rest of the band accompany.

> Listen to.

Ragtime is a style of jazz piano. The right hand plays a **syncopated** melody while the left plays a **vamp** accompaniment.

> Listen to.

Boogie woogie is a similar style. The right hand still plays a **syncopated** melody but the left plays a **walking bass** instead.

> Listen to.

Scat singing is a form of improvisation for jazz singers. They use *vocables* to improvise a melody. Sometimes, they imitate the sound of an instrument like a trumpet or saxophone.

> Listen to last minute of Nina Simone sing "Feeling Good".