

### What should I already know?

- There are different styles of music.
- A music genre is influenced by where and when it originated.
- Different styles of music use different instruments.
- Different styles of music have key repetitive features: syncopation, emotions and motifs.

### Key knowledge - Music Genres

**Jazz** - Jazz emerged in America at the end of the 19th and start of the 20th centuries. There are lots of different types of jazz music, which can make jazz difficult to define. However, most types have some similarities. Jazz uses syncopation and improvisation.

John Coltrane and Charlie Parker are famous jazz musicians.

**Expressionism** - Expressionism was one of the first new styles to appear in the 20th Century. The term was borrowed from visual art and literature. Expressionist composers poured intense emotional expression into their music, and explored the subconscious mind. Extreme dissonance, dynamics and texture. One key composer was Arnold Schoenberg.

**Film music** - there are two sorts of music in films - the music linked to action, and background music. Film music provides mood and atmosphere and uses motifs. Think of Hedwig's Theme from Harry Potter.

### Key Vocabulary and Definitions

**Atonal** - music not written in any particular key

**Bent note** - a musical note that varies in pitch

**Dissonance** - musical notes that do not 'agree' - notes that clash

**Dynamics** - how loudly or softly to play a piece of music

**Genre** - a style, or particular type of music

**Graphic notation** - using non-standard symbols to represent written music

**Harmonies** - a combination of notes played together that produce a pleasing effect

**Improvisation** - creating music spontaneously in the moment

**Melodies** - notes that are played one after the other to make a tune (a melody)

**Motif** - a short musical idea

**Pentatonic scale** - a musical scale of five notes

**Pitch** - how high or low a note is

**Pulse** - the regular 'heartbeat' of a piece, holding the core timing together in a piece of music

**Rhythm** - the pattern of sounds played through time, formed by a series of notes

**Rondo** - a musical structure with a recurring theme

**Standard notation** - the system of writing down music commonly used in Western music, consisting of 5 lines (stave) which individual notes are written onto

**Swung rhythms** - rhythms where instead of two notes of equal length, the first note is lengthened and the second shortened

**Syncopation** - rhythms where strong beats become weak and vice versa

**Tempo** - the speed at which a piece of music is played

**Texture** - how the melody, rhythms and harmony are combined, determining the overall quality of the sound in a piece of music

**Unison** - all performers playing the same thing together

**# (sharp sign)** - a musical note raised a semitone above natural pitch