

Year 9: Folk Music

Key Words

folk music – music associated with a particular area of the world, learnt by ear, and often used for dancing or storytelling

phrase – a ‘chunk’ of melody (a little like a sentence)

accompaniment – the ‘backing’ music which goes alongside the main melody (tune)

oral tradition – a means of learning music by ear / word of mouth (rather than it being written down as sheet music)

orchestra – an ensemble containing strings, woodwind, brass and percussion instruments

structure – the way a piece of music is made up of smaller sections, some of which may be repeated, eg. ABAB

pitch – how high or low the notes are

dynamics – how loud or quiet the music is

tempo – how fast or slow the music is

texture – the ‘layers’ in a piece of music (can be described as thick or thin)