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MUSICAL WORLD:

Exploring Music for Primary School Children - Jazz

At Home Resource &
Activity Pack

nch.ie





WELCOME

Welcome to this edition of *Musical World*, a guide for primary school children to explore music from a variety of cultures!

In this packet we travel to America, where we focus on the rhythms and sounds of jazz.

Listen to some great music from famous jazz musicians, scat along to some classic tunes, and dive into the improvisatory spirited world of jazz.

We hope that you enjoy the activities, links and images, and hope you get inspired to make some music of your own!

NCH Learning & Participation Team





1. Learning and performing Work Song by Nat Adderley

Trumpet player **Nat Adderley** and saxophonist **Julian 'Cannonball' Adderley** were brothers who played together in one of the most famous groups of the 1960's.

Click this link to hear one of Nat Adderley's most well-known compositions, called Work Song. The melody has a 'call-and-response' pattern that is typical of an American field worker's song.



Cannonball Adderley Quintet – Work Song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCqRYneOdIM>

In jazz music, the melody is often called the head, and it usually happens at the beginning and the end of each song. In between, the musicians take turns to play their own solos which are improvised – that means that they make them up on the spot! It is a very spontaneous music.

The most important skill in jazz is to be a good listener – someone who hears what everyone else is playing and is able to respond to them live on stage.

Listening Points

1. Can you hear the 'question' and 'answer' in the melody?
 - A. What is the instrument that plays the question?
 - B. Which instrument answers it?
2. Which instruments play a solo after the melody?
3. How is the very last question / answer melody different?
4. Why do you think Julian (saxophonist) was called 'Cannonball' Adderley?

ANSWERS: 1A. ALTO SAXOPHONE, 1B. TRUMPET; 2. SAXOPHONE, TRUMPET, PIANO, 3. SLOWS DOWN.



Scat Along!

Scat singing uses emotive, nonsense sounds and syllables to sing a tune, and is a fun and popular way to sing jazz music!

Here's a simplified version of the **Work Song** melody, sung with scat syllables.  <https://youtu.be/OBuZIJozAI>



Can you give it a try? Sing the Work Song melody with any variety of *doo-be-dooos* or *ba-dop-bas*!

Scat singers often use their voices to mimic the sounds of instruments and sing improvised solos. What instruments do these scat songs sound like to you?

 Ella Fitzgerald - Blue Skies:
<https://youtu.be/nB-xqDZbEVQ>

 Charlie Parker & Dizzy Gillespie - Oop-Pop-A-Da:
<https://youtu.be/AIMfUAjeqK0>

 The Mills Brothers - I've Found a New Baby:
<https://youtu.be/LfS9nxOivIU>



Cab Calloway was a famous jazz singer and entertainer of the 1930s-1940s. His songs often featured an energetic call-and-response chorus of scat syllables. Here he is stealing the show in the film *Blues Brothers*.

 Cab Calloway - Minnie the Moocher:
<https://youtu.be/zZ5gCGJorKk>



Fun at Home Activity:

Come up with your own 'call and response' scat songs, and take turns with your parents or siblings to be the one who calls or responds!

2. Composing a Blues

The **Blues** is one of the most important sources of inspiration for jazz music, and all great jazz musicians have learnt to express themselves by playing the blues. You can compose your own, using what are called the blue notes, or sometimes known as the blues scale.

BLUES SCALE IN C



 <https://youtu.be/rGj3FSd6wrE>

Most Blues are 12 bars in length, and have three main phrases. A musical phrase is a bit like a sentence, you can imagine that it has a capital letter at the beginning and a full stop at the end.

The blues form is very simple – usually the first phrase and the second phrase are more or less the same. It's a bit like repeating yourself in case your listener didn't hear you the first time. "I said...!" Then the final third phrase is like a conclusion "So..." These three phrases make up one chorus, and then the song goes round and round until the story is told.

Here are some example lyrics for a blues chorus:

***My brother took my blanket, and it makes me really mad.
I said my brother took my blanket, and it makes me really sad.
If he don't give it back soon, I'm gon' tell my mom and dad!***

Listen to the great blues singer **Bessie Smith** singing Yellow Dog Blues in 1927. See if you can hear the start of each chorus (every twelve bars).



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVL24i38F2s>

The Yellow Dog Blues

Ever since Miss Susie Johnson
Lost her jockey Lee
There has been much excitement
And more to be
You can hear her moanin'
Moanin' night and morn
She's wonderin' where her
Easy rider's gone

Cablegrams goes off in inquiry
Telegrams goes off in sympathy
Letters came from down in Bam
Everywhere that Uncle Sam
Is the ruler of delivery

All day the phone rings, it's not for me
At last good tidings fills my heart with glee
This message came from Tennessee

Dear Sue, your easy rider struck this burg today
On a southbound rattler beside the Pullman car
I seen him there and he was on the hog

Oh, you easy rider's got to stay away
She had to vamp it but the hike ain't far
He's gone where the Southern cross the Yellow Dog

The blues often tell a sad story – tales of lost love or hard times fought. They are a way for people to express themselves and to share the burden with others through the music.

Activity:

What makes you want to sing the blues? Try writing your own lyrics using the 12 bar pattern!

The blues is still alive and strong today and continues to be a big influence on many artists and styles since. Here is Bob Dylan's

 Subterranean Homesick Blues from 1965:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGxjIBEZvx0>

Even more recently, listen to Amy Winehouse and Tony Bennett singing the blues-influenced Body and Soul in a Grammy-award winning duet together:

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OFMkCeP6ok

Listen out for the blue notes!



3. Learning about Bebop

The **Bebop** era, which came about at the end of the 1940's, changed jazz music forever. The musicians who became famous during this time included saxophonist Charlie Parker, trumpet player Dizzy Gillespie and drummer Max Roach, introduced a new style of music with much faster and more complicated melodies. The music was no longer for dancing, as the Swing era in the 1930's had focused on, but was more about listening and the art of improvisation.

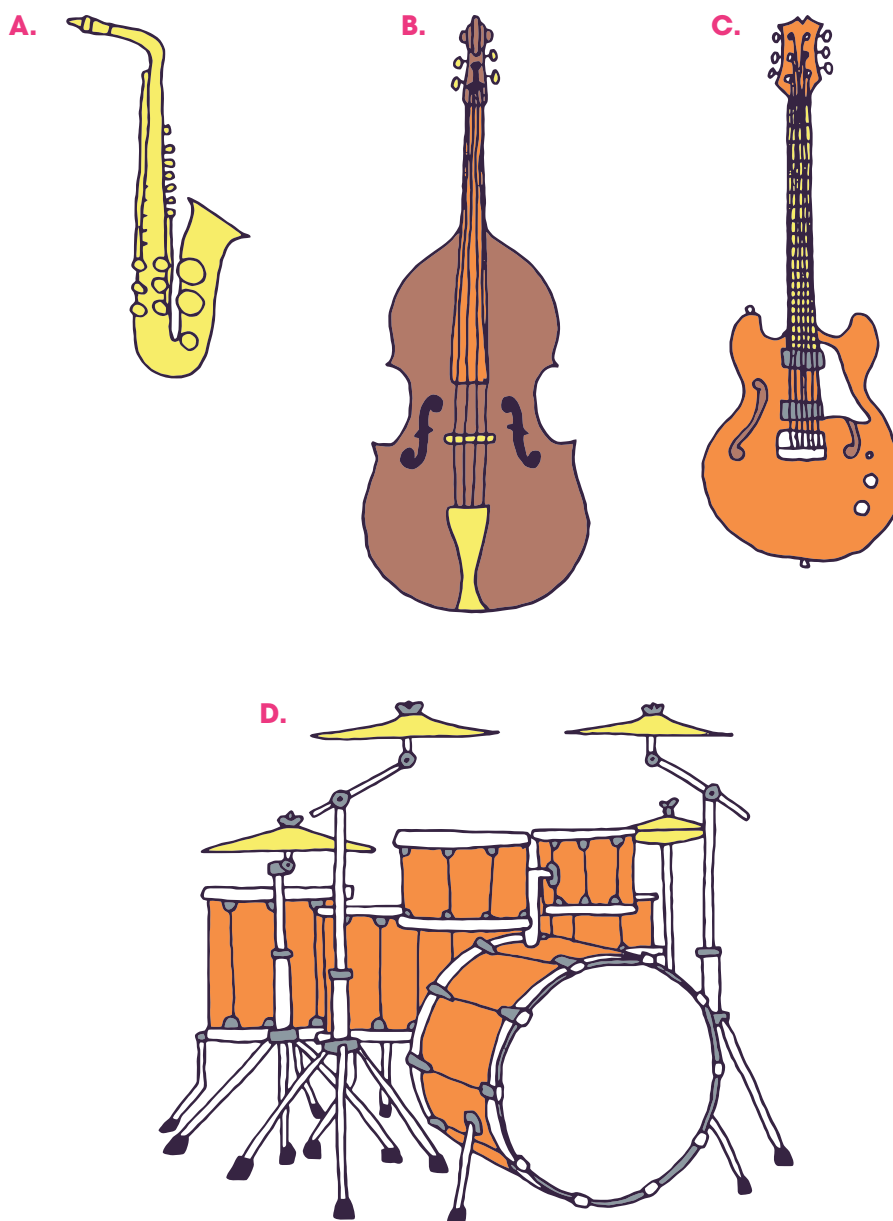


Listen to Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie play Hot House in 1951:
<https://youtu.be/-bl9GAcNflk>

4. Instruments used in Jazz

Popular instruments in a jazz band often include the drums, double bass, guitar and saxophone—and the voice, of course! However many other instruments are commonly found, including trumpet, trombone, piano...in fact jazz can be played on any instrument!

Do some research on all of these instruments commonly found in jazz.



A. Saxophone **B.** Double Bass **C.** Guitar **D.** Drums

Here are some more recordings of famous jazz musicians playing on a variety of instruments. See which one is your favourite:



Michael Brecker – tenor saxophone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bG42XcOGKol>



Wynton Marsalis – trumpet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnY-vPk3yH4>



JJ Johnson – trombone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beQZDDqeTh8>

Jazz musicians have always played their own versions of popular songs from their time – Brad Mehldau follows in that tradition with his cover of a Radiohead song.



Brad Mehldau – piano

https://youtu.be/F_4fiMlxO2E

Jazz is found all around the world, not just in America. In fact, one of the greatest ever jazz guitarists is from right here in Ireland:



Louis Stewart - guitar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7t2mbU5dgo>

Jazz musicians have also enjoyed film careers, such as the drummer from John Coltrane’s legendary quartet, Elvin Jones:



Elvin Jones – drums

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hN2rFPmDq68>