

NOTE: This is a sample only! The full note has many more points apart from what is shown here in each section!

Traditional Polyphonic Music

- Traditional music is ancient rather than late culture development.
- Polyphony is a very ancient phenomenon, invented by medieval monks in the 9th century, but gradually disappearing.
- Europe, Polynesia, Melanesia and particularly Africa have plenty of polyphony

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East African Polyphony

- East African polyphony is mostly based on parallel movements of melodic lines or voices, and sometimes uses free polyphony.
- Adopted a European choral singing style early, and the blend of European choral music and African-American gospel is thriving here.
- When there is no text (for example, in the music of Wagogo tribe), melodic lines develop freely.

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1. Wagogo Honey Collecting Song: East African Polyphony

- This song is Wagogo honey collecting song from East Africa. It starts clapping, which intersects with the melodic development, and then 'zzzz' sound overlapping with a male singing solo, later joined by a group of choir singers singing the same words. Male solo and choir singings interchanges throughout the song. The 'zzzz' sound are rhythmic drones, imitating the bees. We can hear yodelling towards the end of the song. However, yodelling is one of the most important characteristics of Central Africa pygmy polyphony.

- This song has text in some parts but not throughout the entire song. When text is present, all parts follow the same melodic pattern (parallel movement) because of their tonal languages. On the other hand, when there is not text, polyphony is more free. Different parts go on different directions now.

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Contemporary Music (Pop & Rock)

General about Contemporary music

- Pop and rock music are similar to traditional music in musical languages, so they are considered as contemporary folk music sometimes.
- On pop and rock concerts, performers and listeners are not strictly divided. Listeners are invited to participate in the concert by responding to calls, dancing, moving
- Pop and rock artists and groups are not only the performers of the music. They often write their songs themselves. As opposed to classical music where music is usually written by 1 composer or a few people working separately, pop and rock musicians work together and produce music as a group.

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General about Rock Music

- Rock music is originated as “rock and roll” in the United States and has been gradually becoming heavier and heavier over time.
- Modern rock is formed in late 1960s and early 1970s. Three mainstays of rock culture that came that time was: increased amplification, distortion of sound (such as guitar distortion effect), light shows.
- In Rock, when musicians write songs together, they play an instrument and can harmonise tunes themselves and arrange the music.
- Rock has three instruments which are lead guitar, bass guitar and drums. No rhythm guitar is used. Lead and bass guitars often play in unison or octaves.

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2. "Black dog" Led Zeppelin

- Led Zeppelin is the icon of heavy metal rock music
- Led Zeppelin's bass guitarist wanted to write a riff which was winding, with rhythmically complex changes that people could not "groove" or dance to.
- It is played by bass and guitar in octave/unison.
- Ostinato pattern, when a riff is played by bass and guitar and repeated, becomes significant in late rock/heavy metal.
- The solo singing part of this song has lead and bass guitar playing together.
- Bass becomes heavy, quite standing out, melodically and structurally expressive, together with the guitar it often articulates the main tune of the song.
- The riff here is still based on Blues scale, with skipped notes and "bent" notes

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