

Summer Term 1 – Y5 - Listening and Appraising

Musical Traditions



What do I already know?

- I know the names of an increasingly large range of instruments and what family of instruments they are part of
- I will be able to discuss different effects used in the piece and explain how they make me feel.
- I can compare different pieces of music with support to use musical vocabulary.
- I know that songs can tell a story.

What will I learn?

- I will continue to compare different pieces of music using musical vocabulary, giving my opinion with musical knowledge to back it up.
- I will have an increasing understanding of the structures that can be used when composing pieces of the music especially when this is created using an a cappella style.
- I will discuss the purpose of the song and context within history. How does a song become timeless? Why did the group become so popular?

Vocabulary

A cappella	To sing, individually or as a group, unaccompanied (without any instruments).
Adagio	Performed at a slow and stately speed (at ease)
Andante	Performed at medium speed (walking pace).
Allegro	Performed at a fast speed (quick and bright)
Forte	Performed loudly.
piano	Not just the instrument! Used in written music to mean play quietly.
crescendo	Gradually getting louder
diminuendo	Gradually getting quieter
timbre	Timbre is the character or quality of a musical sound. There are many different words we can use to describe the timbre of a sound: bright, dark, brassy, reedy, harsh, noisy, thin, buzzy, pure, raspy, shrill, mellow. When we describe the timbre of a sound we do not describe how loud the sound is (dynamics) or how high or low the sound is (pitch).
texture	Texture refers to the overall sound of a piece of music. It can be thick or thin, busy or sparse and so on. Texture is determined by how many instruments are playing, how many different parts there are and the timbre of the instruments playing.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo are a South African male choral group singing in the local vocal styles of isicathamiya and mbube. They became known internationally after singing with Paul Simon on his 1986 album Graceland, and have won multiple awards, including five Grammy Awards, dedicating their fifth Grammy to the late former President Nelson Mandela.

Formed by Joseph Shabalala in 1960, Ladysmith Black Mambazo became one of South Africa's most prolific recording artists, with their releases receiving gold and platinum disc honours. The group became a mobile academy of South African cultural heritage through their African indigenous isicathamiya music.



Isicathamiya (with the "c" pronounced as a dental click) is a singing style that originated from the South African Zulus. Zulu people (/ˈzuːluː/; Zulu: amaZulu) are a Nguni ethnic group in Southern Africa. The Zulu people are the largest ethnic group and nation in South Africa, with an estimated 10–12 million people, living mainly in the province of KwaZulu-Natal.



In European understanding, **a cappella** is also used to describe this form of singing. The word Isicathamiya does not have a literal translation; it is derived from the Zulu verb -cathama, which means walking softly, or tread carefully. Isicathamiya contrasts with an earlier name for Zulu a cappella singing, **mbube**, meaning "lion". The change in name marks a transition in the style of the music: traditionally, music described as **mbube** is sung loudly and powerfully, while **isicathamiya** focuses more on achieving a harmonious blend between the voices. The name also refers to the style's tightly choreographed dance moves that keep the singers on their toes.

South African singing groups such as Ladysmith Black Mambazo demonstrate this style. Isicathamiya choirs are traditionally all male. Its roots reach back before the turn of the 20th century, when numerous men left the homelands in order to search for work in the cities. As many of the tribesmen became urbanized, the style was forgotten through much of the 20th century.