

Vocabulary

Accompaniment – An instrumental part designed to support or complement a vocal melody.

Acapella – Singing done without an instrumental accompaniment.

Call and response – A sung melody or instrumental part which is played and then copied back.

Dynamics – The variation between loud and quiet within a piece of music.

Gospel – A style of music characterised by strong vocals and harmony parts with Christian lyrics.

Harmony – The sound of two or more notes heard simultaneously

Ostinato – A repeating melodic or rhythmic pattern.

Round – Two or more groups of singers singing the same melody but at different times.

Solo – A musical composition for a single voice or instrument.

Structure – The order that different parts of the music are played in.

Unison – Everyone singing or playing the same part at the same time.

What does singing sound like in Africa?



Soweto Gospel Choir

The Soweto Gospel Choir was formed in Soweto, South Africa and comprises more than 30 members. The group blend a variety of different styles including African gospel, Negro spiritual, reggae and American popular music. The group performed at the first of the concerts held especially for Nelson Mandela and has since toured internationally several times. Soweto Gospel choir was formed to celebrate the unique and inspirational power of African Gospel music. It draws upon the best talent from the many churches in and around Soweto and is dedicated to sharing the joy of faith through music.

Prior learning

Work in KS1 on untuned percussion and rhythm, listening to and appraising a variety of classical music, playing tuned and untuned percussion in the Wider Opps Scheme.

Interesting ideas:

Choral singing in Africa has existed for tens of thousands of years. An African style of singing, including rich vocal harmonies, has been demonstrated for many years by communities such as Ijesha-Yoruba of Nigeria, Nguu of Tanzania, Zulu, Xhosa, and Swazi of South Africa. These group activities were and still are primarily part of the social activities of the African communities where music making is generally social.

Useful links:

Follow this link to listen to The Soweto Gospel choir performing 'Baba Yetu':

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Or19_sb-vWY