

Scottish Music

Junior Phase

Unit Outcome

Assessment Standards 1.2

By the end of this unit you will be able to.....

- **Recognise and identify musical concepts and styles in Scottish music.**

What do you already know?

- What do you already know about Scottish Music? In groups, fill in the Mind Map below.



- Scottish Traditional Music has a rich culture and history. For **homework**, please research and write at least 150 words on the Social and Cultural influences on the traditional music of Scotland.

[Go to example history](#)

[Skip to Contemporary Scottish](#)

The History of Scottish Music

- **Where did it come from?**
- Let's go back in time...
- You are living in Scotland in the 1800s. Life is difficult. You are a farm worker who doesn't get paid much and there are few opportunities for socialising. There are no clubs, no shopping centres and no TV. What do you do for entertainment?
- **Music!**



The History of Scottish Music

- So both instrumental and vocal music was the main source of entertainment in Scotland.
- There were social gatherings called **ceilidhs** in the evenings.
- Everyone in the town would attend these gatherings and learn the music used for dancing and singing.
- This means music was passed on **aurally** through generations. However, music was later notated and produced in **printed form** and this is an invaluable source for musicians today.



The History of Scottish Music

- **Story telling** was another form of entertainment, so most music has evolved from an event or story. This helps you understand what the music is about and where it comes from. This is called **Folklore**.
- Musicians didn't travel very much or very far, therefore music wasn't affected by outside influences. People would imitate those around them and create different regional styles.



Contemporary Scottish Music

- Although most of this topic will be about traditional Scottish music, there is still plenty of contemporary Scottish music that has been influenced by tradition.
- For homework, have a listen to and find some facts on these modern Scottish groups/events.

- **Celtic Connections**

Go to example facts

- **Runrig**

- **Red Hot Chilli Pipers**

- **Capercaillie**

Skip to Features/Instruments

Contemporary Scottish Music

- The world famous **Celtic Connections** festival takes place in January/February every year.
- **Runrig** have successfully entered the UK album and singles charts several times since forming in 1973. They still tour the UK and Europe today.
- The **Red Hot Chilli Pipers** have sold out venues all over the world including the USA as well as performing recently at T in the Park!
- **Capercaille** has had one silver and two gold UK albums as well as touring the world.

Melodic Features and Instruments

Learning Intention

*I will be able to identify
instruments and **features** of
Scottish instruments.*



Features of Scottish Music

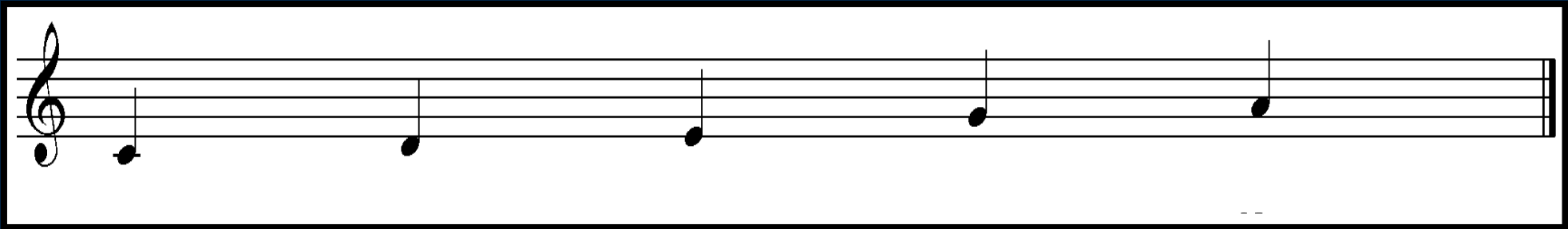
- A lot of Scottish music is recognisable by the type of scale the melodies are based on.
- It is called the **PENTATONIC** scale.
- There are FIVE notes in the pentatonic scale – the same as sides in a



I will be able to identify instruments and features of Scottish instruments.

The Pentatonic Scale

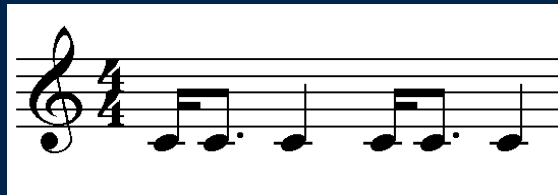
- Draw this scale on the Stave:



- You can also play a pentatonic scale an even easier way. The “black keys” on any keyboard instrument form a pentatonic scale.
- *I will be able to identify instruments and features of Scottish instruments.*

Scotch Snap/Grace Notes

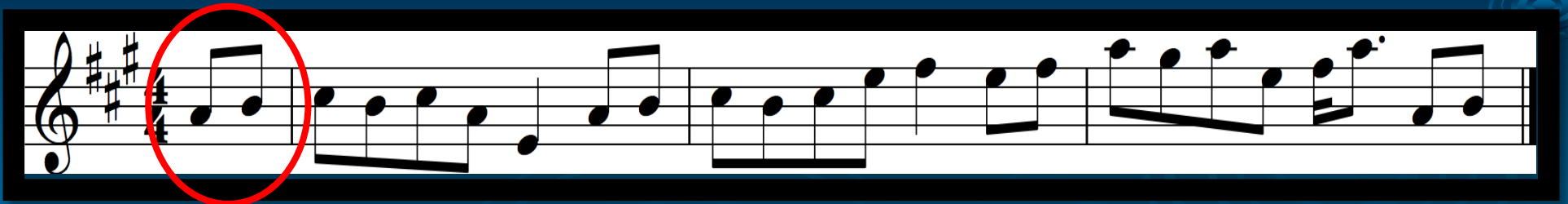
- A rhythmic feature found in a lot of Scottish tunes (especially Strathspeys) is the **Scotch Snap**
- **A very quick note that falls on the beat followed by a longer note.**



- **Grace Notes** are often found in Scottish music.
- **Short notes that decorate or “ornament” a melody. Often played on the bagpipes and /or fiddle. They are played very quickly before a main note.**

Anacrusis

- Many Scottish melodies begin with an anacrusis. Can you remember what this means? If so, write it down in your own words.
- **The weaker note(s) which appear before the first strong beat of a musical phrase.**
- Circle an example of an anacrusis in the following piece of music



Scottish Instruments

- The following instruments are common in Scottish Music. You **must** be able to:
 - 1. Hear them in musical examples and
 - 2. Understand how they are played.



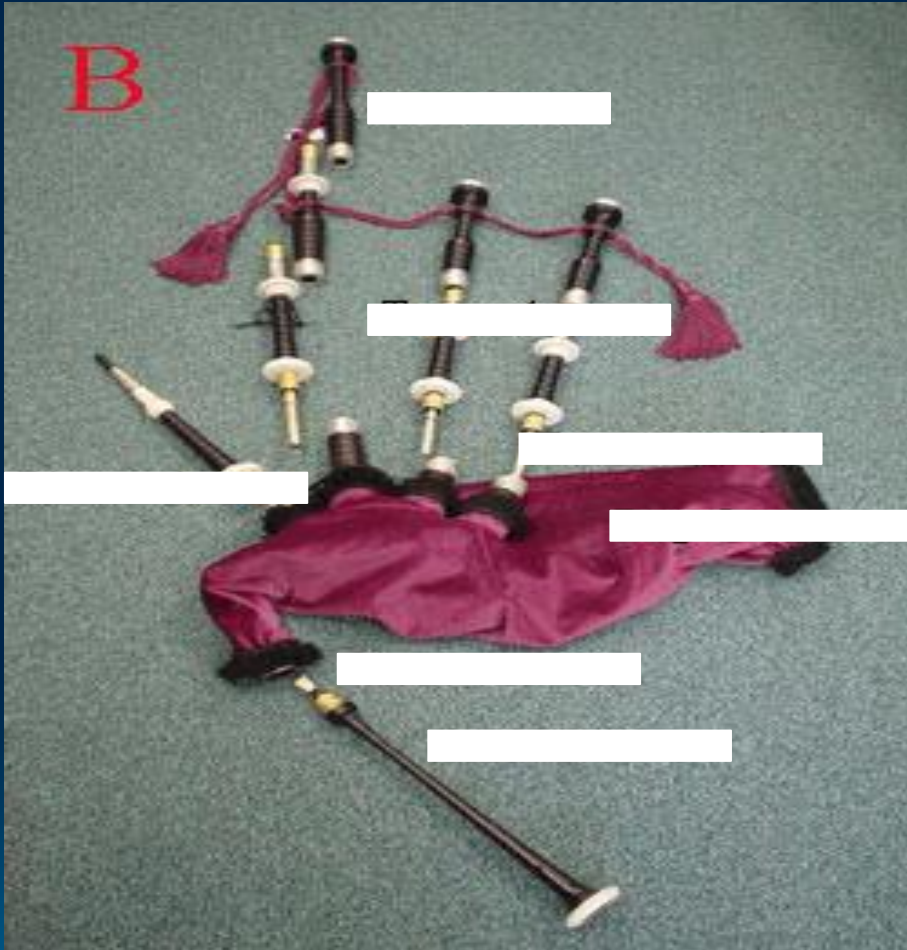
Accordion



- The accordion is commonly found playing in a **Scottish Country Dance Band**
- The sound of an accordion is created by **air being pushed through reeds.**
- Can you name any of the parts of the accordion? Label the important parts.

I will be able to identify instruments and features of Scottish instruments.

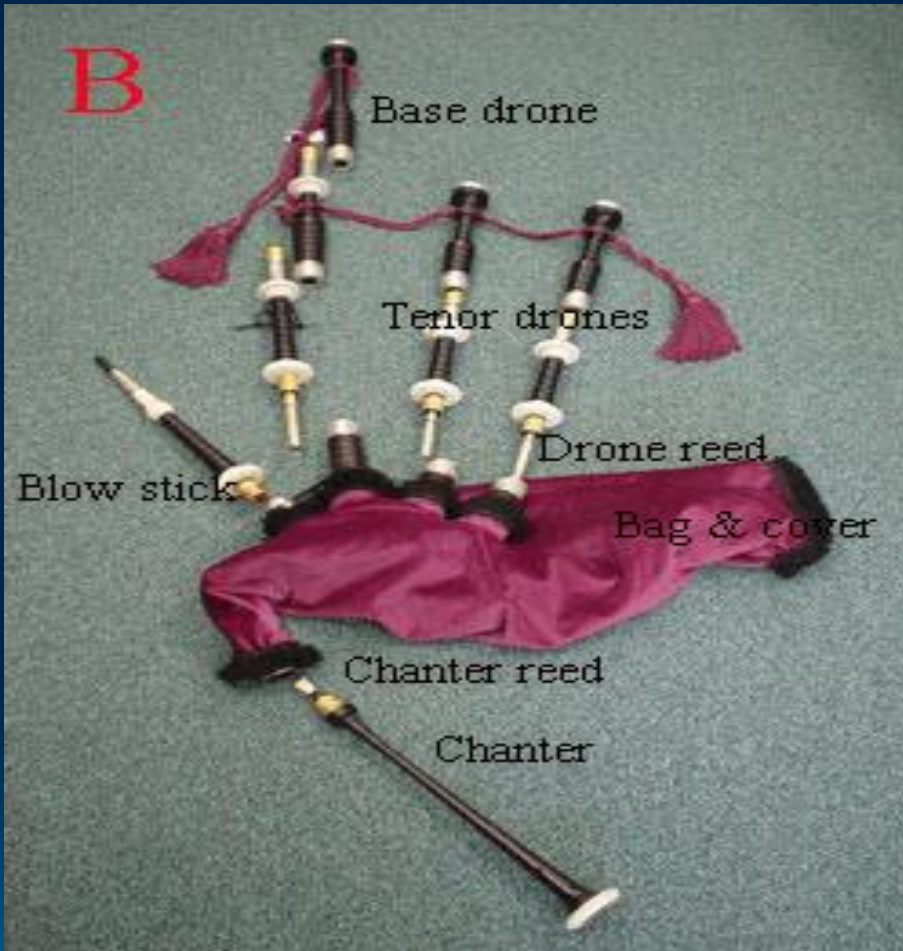
Highland Bagpipes



- Can you name any of the parts of the bagpipes? Label them.
- The sound of bagpipes is created by... **a melody being played on the chanter, and air from the bag is pushed through reeds in the pipes to produce sound.**

I will be able to identify instruments and features of Scottish instruments.

Drone



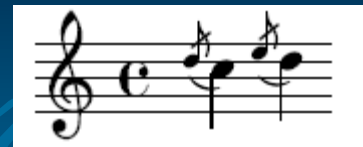
- The **drones** gives the Pipes their distinctive sound. But can you describe the sound of a Drone?
- **The low, continuous sound that plays under the melody. It consists of two notes, the interval of a 5th apart.**

I will be able to identify instruments and features of Scottish instruments.

Pibroch



- An important style of music played by Bagpipes is **Pibroch**.
- It would feature **a Solo Piper, lots of Ornaments (Grace Notes) and be in Theme and Variation Form.**
- Pibroch is considered a serious style of music – in Gaelic it is called **Ceòl Mòr – (Great Music).**



Pipe Band



Strathclyde Police Pipe Band

- These are a common sight around special events in Scotland, such as, festivals, galas and the highland games.
- Find a space in your booklet and take the following definition:
 - **Pipe Band:** a large group of Bagpipe players and Drummers (Roughly 11-16 Pipers, 7-10 Drummers)

Bodhrán

- A **percussion instrument** more commonly found in traditional Irish folk music, but is also used in other types of Celtic music such as Scottish.
- The playing side is made of goat skin. The other is open-ended, and a hand to be placed inside to control the pitch and timbre.
- The **bodhrán** is struck either with the hand or with a stick called a **tipper**.



Clarsach

- **A small harp used in Scottish traditional music.**



Pedal Harp



Notice the difference in height!

I will be able to identify instruments and features of Scottish instruments.

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Clarsach



- What is played on a Clarsach?
- **Slow Airs**
- **Jigs and Reels for dancing**
- **Songs are sometimes accompanied by a Clarsach.**

Slow air

Reels for dancing

Accompanying

The Fiddle

- The Fiddle is just another word for the **violin**. It is usually called a fiddle when playing traditional music and a violin when playing classical music.

Scottish
Fiddle
Orchestra



Playing the Fiddle

- There are two main ways to play the Fiddle. Do you remember these words from S1? Try and answer them in your own words.
- **Arco**
- Playing the fiddle/violin using the bow
- **Pizzicato**
- Playing the fiddle/violin by plucking the strings.

Slow Air

- Listen to this **Slow Air** played on the Fiddle.
- **Slow Air:**
- **A slow traditional melody.**
- What is the musical word for slow?
- **Slow = Adagio**

I will be able to identify instruments and features of Scottish instruments.

Piano



In Scottish music, a **piano** is often used as an **accompaniment**. It tends to play a **vamp**.

You already know this concept. Right down the definition in your own words.



Vamp: A vamp is an accompaniment style that alternates between a bass note and a chord.

Think 'oom-pah, oom-pah!'

I will be able to identify instruments and features of Scottish instruments.

Knowledge Check 1:

*Please turn to the second last page
in your booklets.*

Knowledge Check 1

Q 1 Tick the correct answer

- A) Accordion
- B) Fiddle
- C) Bagpipes
- D) Clarsach

Q 2 Tick the correct answer

- A) Accordion
- B) Fiddle
- C) Bagpipes
- D) Clarsach

Q 3 Tick the correct answer

- A) Accordion
- B) Fiddle
- C) Bagpipes
- D) Clarsach

Q 4 Tick the correct answer

- A) Accordion
- B) Fiddle
- C) Bagpipes
- D) Clarsach

Q 5 Tick **two** correct answers

- A) Scotch Snap
- B) Double Stopping
- C) Drone
- D) Vamp

Q 6 Tick the correct answer

- A) Allegro
- B) Double Stopping
- C) Drone
- D) Vamp

Q 7 Tick the correct answer

- A) Scots Snap
- B) Double Stopping
- C) Drone
- D) Vamp

Q 8 Tick the correct answer

- A) Scots Snap
- B) Double Stopping
- C) Drone
- D) Vamp

Q10

The string technique used is

Q9

1

This tune begins with a/an

2

The melody instrument is a/an

3

The accompanying instrument is a/an

4

The accompanying instrument plays a/an

I will be able to identify instruments and features of Scottish instruments.

Scottish Dances

Learning Intention

*I will be able to identify **Scottish dances** and the features present in each.*

Scottish Dance Band

- A **Scottish Dance Band** is often used to provide live music at weddings or ceilidhs, where there is traditional Scottish dancing. Have a listen – what instruments can you hear?
- The instruments often include **fiddle, accordion, piano, drumkit or snare drum** with the piano playing a vamp to accompany the other instruments.



Celtic Rock Band

- Fusion of **Scottish/Irish music** and **Rock music**
- Have a listen to these examples of Celtic Rock and write down as many instruments as you can – but put them in either **Traditional Instruments** or **Rock Instruments**



Celtic Rock Band

➤ Traditional instruments:

- Fiddle
- Bagpipes
- Tin whistle
- Bodhran
- Side/Snare Drum

➤ Rock instruments:

- Electric guitar
- Drumkit
- Bass guitar.
- Keyboard/Synthesizer

Scottish Dances

- Scotland has a rich dance tradition.
- Some of the dances that a Scottish Dance Band would play include:
 - **Strathspey**
 - **Jig**
 - **March**
 - **Reel**
 - **Waltz**
- You are about to learn about these.

I will be able to identify Scottish dances and the features present in each.

Reel



Perhaps the most common of the Scottish Dances.

Have a listen and think of anything that you think could help you identify a reel.

- **Simple Time**
- **Fast (allegro)** think.. Reely fast 😊
- **Two or Four beats in the bar**

I will be able to identify Scottish dances and the features present in each.

Reel



- **Simple Time**
- Each beat can be split into two halves.
- Count: 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and
- **OR** any word with 2 syllables!
- **Co-ffee Co-ffee** etc.

I will be able to identify Scottish dances and the features present in each.

Jig



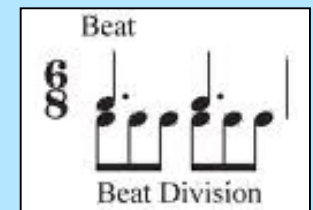
The jig has some similarities to the reel, but a very important differences.

Have a listen and think of anything that you think could help you identify a jig.

➤ **Compound Time – gives a lilting or skipping feel**

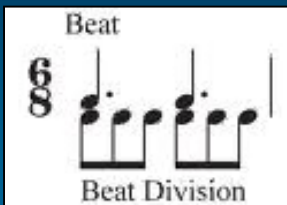
➤ **Fast (allegro)**

➤ **Usually have 2 or 4 beats in a bar (but occasionally 3!)**



I will be able to identify Scottish dances and the features present in each.

Jig



- Find a space in your booklet and take down the following definition:
- **Compound Time**
- Each beat can be split into three thirds.
- Count: 1 and a 2 and a 3 and a 4 and a
- **OR** any word with 3 syllables!
- **Straw-ber-ry** Or even **Jig-i-ty Jig-i-ty!**

I will be able to identify Scottish dances and the features present in each.

Waltz

Characteristics

- **Three beats in bar (strong first beat)**
- **Slow to Medium tempo (Adagio – Andante)**
- **Simple Time**
- Try the time signature exercise in your booklets now.

I will be able to identify Scottish dances and the features present in each.

Strathspey



Characteristics

- **Scotch Snaps** and Dotted Rhythms – creates a Jerky/Jumpy feel



- Moderate tempo (Andante)
- 2 or 4 beats in a bar - Simple Time

I will be able to identify Scottish dances and the features present in each.

March



Characteristics

- Strong rhythmic marching feel
- Walking speed – Andante
- 2 or 4 beats in a bar – can be Simple or Compound Time

I will be able to identify Scottish dances and the features present in each.

Knowledge Check 2:

*Complete the following listening
exercise in your workbook.*

Knowledge Check 2

Q 1 Tick the correct answer

- A) Jig
- B) Strathspey
- C) Reel
- D) Waltz

Q 2 Tick the correct answer

- A) Jig
- B) Strathspey
- C) Reel
- D) Waltz

Q 3 Tick the correct answer

- A) Jig
- B) Strathspey
- C) Reel
- D) Waltz

Q 4 Tick the correct answer

- A) Jig
- B) Strathspey
- C) Reel
- D) Waltz

Q 5 Tick the correct answer

- A) Scotch Snap
- B) Compound Time
- C) March
- D) Pibroch

Q 6 Tick the correct answer

- A) Scotch Snap
- B) Compound Time
- C) March
- D) Pibroch

Q 7 Tick the correct answer

- A) Scotch Snap
- B) Compound Time
- C) March
- D) Pibroch

Q 8 Tick the correct answer

- A) Scotch Snap
- B) Compound Time
- C) March
- D) Pibroch

Q9 Name the type of band playing

Q10 Is this tune in simple or compound time?

Q11 How many beats are there in the bar?

Q12

Timbre	Bagpipes	
	Fiddle	
	Clarsach	
Rhythm and Tempo	Strathspey	
	Waltz	
	Reel	
Melody and Harmony	Vamp	
	Drone	
	Pentatonic	

Tick 1 box

Tick 1 box

Tick 1 boxes

I will be able to identify Scottish dances and the features present in each.

Scottish Vocal Music

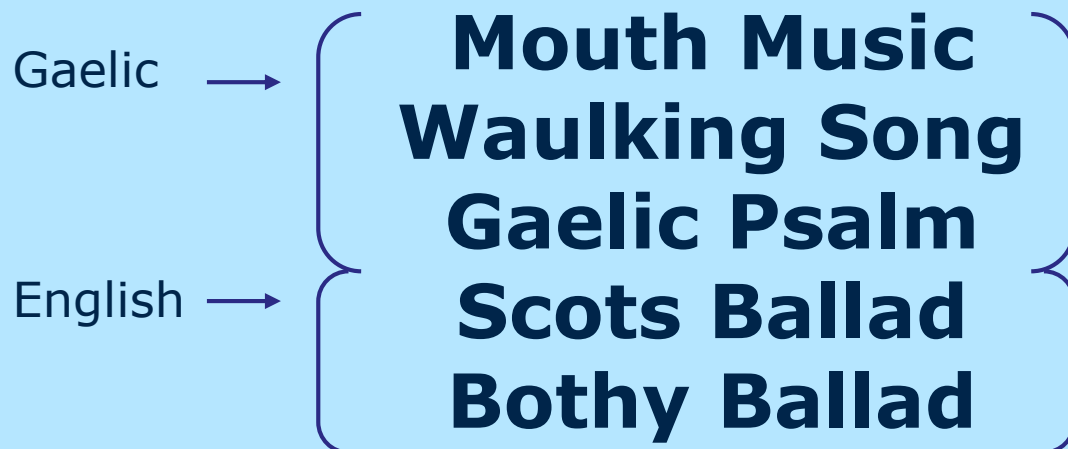
I will be able to identify Scottish vocal music and the features present in each.

Vocal Music

In Scottish traditional music, songs are sung
in two languages:

GAELIC and **ENGLISH**

Below is a list of the Scottish Vocal songs you are
about to learn.



The Gaelic Language



Gaelic is spoken in the **Highlands Western Isles.**

Homework Task:

What happened during the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745?

Please write at least 150 words on the blank pages at the back of your books.

Use your own words!

Mouth Music

- 1745 After the Jacobite Rebellion instruments, *particularly the Pipes*, were banned in the highlands!
- People had to sing music for people to dance to.
- Gaelic words were combined with nonsense sounds to recreate the sound of an instrument for dancing to.
- It is often the Scottish dances you have just learned they are recreating- Jigs, Reels, Marches and Strathspeys.

I will be able to identify Scottish vocal music and the features present in each.

Mouth Music



- A mixture of Gaelic sounds & nonsense words like diddle di dum.
- Rhythm and feel of a Scottish dance tune.
- **Fast articulation**, as if they were trying to copy the sound of an instrument.
- **Usually a solo singer.**

I will be able to identify Scottish vocal music and the features present in each.

Waulking Songs



- The *waulking* of cloth involved soaking it, beating it with feet/hands until it would shrink which made the tweed stronger and more waterproof.
- Women sat round a waulking board and pounded the cloth onto it.
- They would sing **Gaelic** verses intertwined with rhythmic choral responses accompanied by pounding on the table in time with the music.
- Waulking Songs were composed during this work – usually with the topic of men, love and laments for the dead.

I will be able to identify Scottish vocal music and the features present in each.

Waulking Song

Listen out for -



- **Unaccompanied female singers** using **call and response**. One singer would sing the 'call' and the others the 'response,' usually a **ho-ro-hi-ro** refrain sung in unison.
- Sung in **gaelic**.
- You can usually hear **'bumping'** sound of the cloth against the waulking board.

I will be able to identify Scottish vocal music and the features present in each.

Gaelic Psalm



- Gaelic psalms are Gaelic Presbyterian church songs which feature a male *precentor*, who sings a line of the verse to the congregation, who then repeat it. Gaelic psalms are heard mostly in the Western Isles of Scotland.
- They are **slow – Adagio**
- They are **unaccompanied – A cappella**
- The solo precentor followed by the congregation could be called **question and answer**

I will be able to identify Scottish vocal music and the features present in each.

Bothy Ballads



Bothy Ballads are sung in **English with a doric dialect** by **male farm labourers**.

They originate from north-east Scotland, and the story of rural or farming life. Doric is a dialect spoken in the north-east of Scotland.

Performed by a solo **male** singer – most often **unaccompanied**. Sometimes, other men may join in with the chorus.

I will be able to identify Scottish vocal music and the features present in each.

Bothy Ballads



These songs are in **Strophic Form** – this is when every verse (or verse/chorus) has the exact same melody.

This is common in most Scottish songs.

Bothy Ballad features:

Male voice, usually a **cappella**

English with **Doric** dialect

Stories of **farming** life - in **Strophic** Form

I will be able to identify Scottish vocal music and the features present in each.

Bothy Ballads

Find a space in your booklets and write down the following:

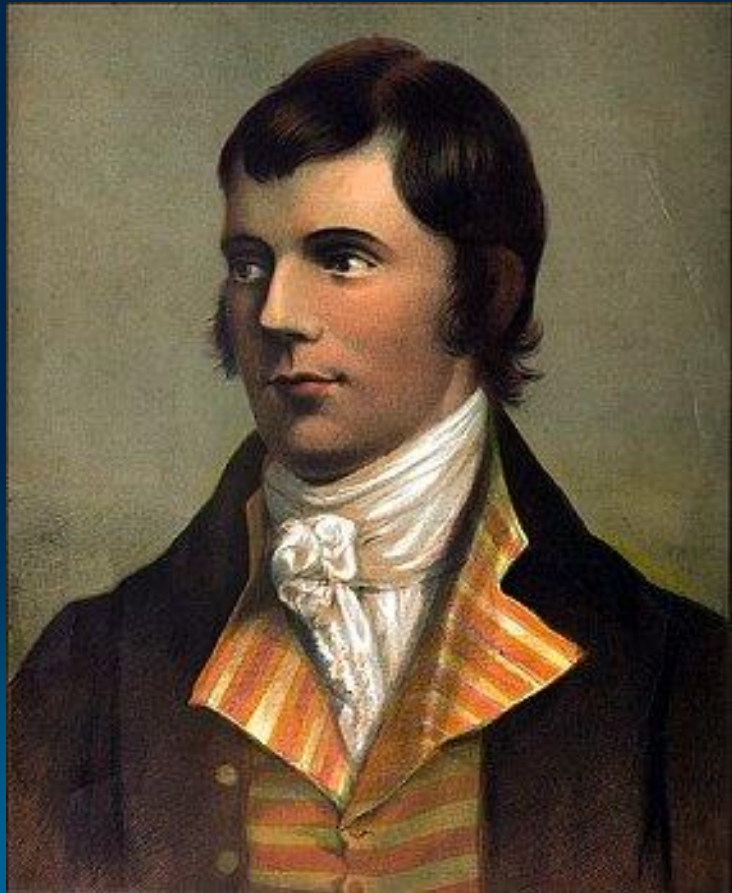
A bothy is an out-house shared by unmarried farm labourers

They usually only had two rooms – one for sleeping and one for eating.



I will be able to identify Scottish vocal music and the features present in each.

Scots Ballad



- Traditional Scottish Songs that usually **tell a story** – romance, battles, comedy.
- A Scots Ballad is sung in **English but uses old Scots words**, i.e. *'Yon bonnie Lassie'o'*
- Can be sung by **Male or Female** and is usually accompanied
- **Strophic form**

Listening Task Assignment 3:

*Complete the following listening
exercise in your workbook.*

Knowledge Check 3

Q 1 Tick the correct answer

- A) Mouth Music
- B) Gaelic Pslam
- C) Waulking Song

Q 2 Tick the correct answer

- A) Mouth Music
- B) Gaelic Pslam
- C) Waulking Song

Q 3 Tick the correct answer

- A) Mouth Music
- B) Gaelic Pslam
- C) Waulking Song

Q 4 Tick the correct answer

- A) Mouth Music
- B) Gaelic Pslam
- C) Waulking Song

Q 5 Tick the correct answer

- A) Bothy Ballad
- B) Scots Ballad
- C) Gaelic Pslam

Q 6 Tick the correct answer

- A) Bothy Ballad
- B) Scots Ballad
- C) Waulking Song

Q 7 Tick the correct answer

- A) Bothy Ballad
- B) Scots Ballad
- C) Gaelic Pslam

Q 8 Tick the correct answer

- A) Bothy Ballad
- B) Scots Ballad
- C) Gaelic Pslam

Q 9 Name the style of song and give the reason why.

Style _____

Reason _____

Homework:

**Study for your
upcoming
Scottish Music
assessment!**