

Name:

Why we sing

Year 5 Term 1

Class:

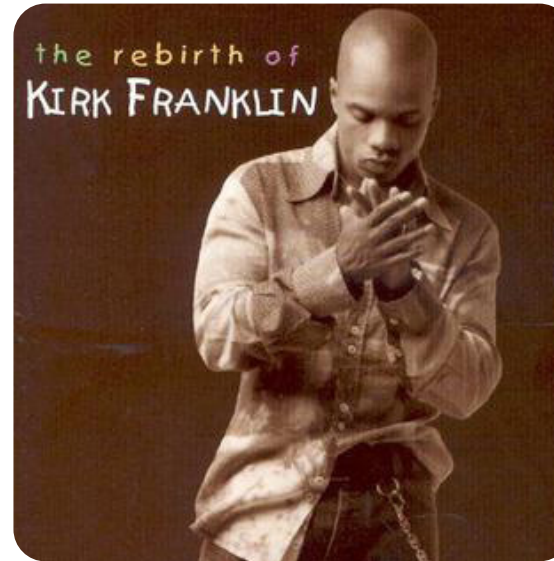
Spirituals and Gospel songs have similar origins in African American history and culture. They evolved as 2 distinct styles with different purposes.

Spirituals

- Developed by enslaved Africans in the USA to express their adopted Christian faith.
- They were also a secret way of communicating.
- Traditionally sung **unaccompanied (acapella)**.

Gospel songs

- Developed after the American Civil War (1865).
- Church based music used for worship.
- Influenced by several African American styles, including Spirituals and Blues.
- Described as 'composed folk songs'.
- Almost always **accompanied**, and have **verses** and **choruses**.



Why we sing is a modern Gospel song written by Kirk Franklin in 1993.

In the 'live' performance video the performers sing the '**call**' and the congregation sing the '**response**'.

Song Bank

- *Wade in the water*
- *This little light of mine*
- *People get ready*
- *When the saints go marching in*

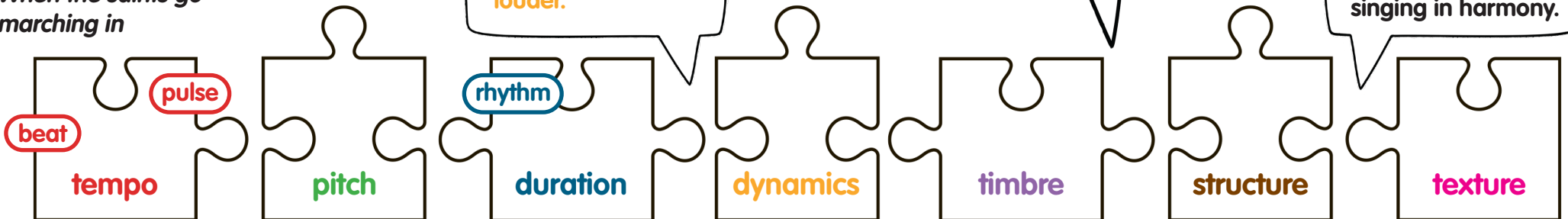
Melody = the tune.
Harmony = notes to add to the tune.

Choir = group of singers.
Acappella = unaccompanied singing.
Congregation = people in church
Electric piano, bass guitar, drum kit.

Call-and-response
Verse/chorus
Spoken interlude
Phrase = a musical sentence.

Quieter, louder
crescendo = getting louder.

Unison = singing the same tune.
Homophonic = singing in harmony.



How singers use their voices

- improvising - music created spontaneously.
- vocal bends - bending the pitch of a note up or down.
- vocal slides (glissando) - sliding up or down to other notes.
- vocal decoration - slides, bends, 'twiddles' etc.
- solo voice - one person singing.
- melody - singing the tune.
- harmony - other notes that sound good with the melody.
- legato - singing or playing smoothly.
- diction/ articulation - clear words and emphasis.

How confident do you feel talking about Gospel music using musical language?



Add a comment:

Instruments you might expect to find in a Gospel band - **drum kit**, **piano**, **electric bass**



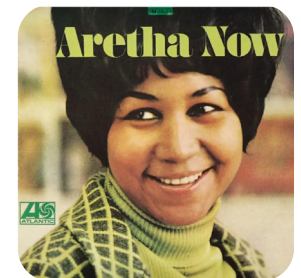
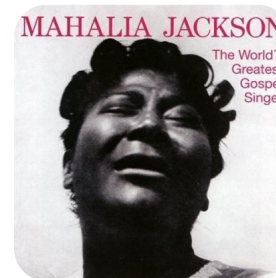
Shackles (Praise You) was released by American singer-songwriters, Mary Mary in 2000.

Practise moves and actions to go with this song.

Mahalia Jackson
(1911 - 1972)

Ray Charles
(1930 - 2004)

Aretha Franklin
(1942 - 2018)



Gospel singers are expressive and use their voice and whole body when they sing.

←
17th Century

←
18th Century

←
19th Century

←
20th Century

→
21st Century - present

Spirituals are songs that were composed by enslaved African people in the USA. Gospel music grew out of these songs.

American Civil War 1861-1865 slavery ended in America in 1865.

1993 *Why we sing* by Kirk Franklin.

Gospel music is still written today and used as part of worship in Christian churches all over the world.