

Art and music

1 Work with a partner and discuss the questions.

- 1 What kind of music do you listen to? Which musicians or music artists do you admire? Why?
- 2 Are you a musical person? Do you play an instrument or sing well? Would you like to have a career in music?

2 Read the text. Which two music genres don't always use instruments?

MUSIC GENRES

Some people like rock, some like jazz and some like classical music. There are many different music genres. Lots of people like music as a hobby, but how many people actually make music their career? We speak to three professional singers to find out more about their interesting choice of work.

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Kelvin

I'm a rap artist from London. I developed an interest in this genre in my teens and started performing professionally at 17. Rap music grew out of the hip-hop culture that was prominent in the 1970s among young African Americans in New York. It started at events known as block parties, when DJs started 'scratching' records of popular songs on two turntables to create a new sound.

Rap is a rhythmic sound and the performer speaks or chants the lyrics to an instrumental or a synthesised beat. Sometimes a rapper performs a *cappella*, and sometimes with a background instrument like the synthesizer or a drum machine.



Carly

I'm a singer-songwriter from Tennessee in the USA, and I write and perform country music. I didn't always see my career in music. I wanted to be a doctor, but I became interested in this genre at 13 when I was learning the guitar.

My ambition to become a musician worked out and I don't have any regrets.

Country music started in the southern United States in the 1920s and evolved from Irish fiddle tunes, cowboy songs, traditional folk music and the musical traditions of different European immigrant communities. Country music has a lively, rhythmic sound and uses string instruments, such as banjos and guitars, along with the singer's voice as the main sound. The accordion and harmonica are popular accompaniments.



Rhys

I sing in a male voice choir for boys in my hometown in Wales, a country in the UK. Although Wales is a small country, it has a big reputation for singing. A strong tradition of choral singing developed here in the late 19th century in working-class industrial communities. At that time, many men were working in tough jobs in coal mines. Singing together helped them cope with the difficulties of daily life.

People often perform a *cappella* in choirs. There's a range of vocals, like tenor and bass voices, and they sing in harmony without the need for musical accompaniment. The pure sound of a male voice choir can often be very moving, and I feel proud to be sharing this beautiful music with the world.



3 Read the text again. Decide if the sentences are True (T) or False (F).

- 1 String instruments like the violin and guitar are popular in country music. T / F
- 2 Rap and country music both began in the USA. T / F
- 3 Welsh choral music developed in immigrant communities in the 19th century. T / F
- 4 A rapper can perform to an instrumental or with the voice only. T / F
- 5 Country music usually has an energetic sound with a lot of rhythm. T / F
- 6 Hip-hop music evolved from rap. T / F

4 Read the sentences and write *rap*, *country* or *choral*.

- 1 A style of music that developed in the early 20th century.
- 2 A music genre in which the lyrics are usually spoken.
- 3 Immigrants in the country helped shape this musical style.
- 4 This traditional music came out of difficult conditions.
- 5 A musical style that often has wind or keyboard instruments as accompaniment
- 6 A genre of music that uses a background beat of electronic sounds.

5 Discuss the questions in pairs.

- 1 What kind of music is popular or traditional in your country? Why do you think this is?
- 2 How important is music to the people of your country? Are there any important musical events or festivals?
- 3 Do you know any music genres that started in your country?

?? DID YOU KNOW?

Music probably evolved from sounds and rhythms from nature that humans copied in prehistoric times, e.g. bird songs and other animal sounds. This early 'music' was probably first used for practical purposes like hunting animals and protection from the enemy before it became a form of entertainment.

The first musical instrument was most likely the human voice, followed by clapping hands and hitting stones together to create a rhythm. Some of the oldest instruments found are flutes made of animal bones from a cave in Germany. They date back to about 43,000 years ago.

PROJECT

- 1 Work in groups. Choose one of these music genres:

blues • heavy metal • punk • jazz • reggae • swing

- 2 Find out as much as you can about the music genre you chose. Include the following information:
 - where it started
 - what features it has
 - why it developed
 - famous artists
- 3 Prepare a presentation of your music genre for the class.

VOCABULARY FOCUS

a cappella [adj]: sung by voices only

accompaniment [n]: the part of a piece of music that supports the tune someone sings

bass [adj]: a male voice singing in the lower range

beat [n]: the pattern of sounds in a piece of music

block party [n]: an outdoor get-together of people in the area of buildings where they live

choir [n]: a group of singers performing together

choral [adj]: describing music that is sung by a choir

coal mine [n]: where coal is extracted from

cope [v]: manage a difficult situation successfully

DJ [n]: (=disc jockey) someone who plays the music in a club or at a party

evolve [v]: gradually change and develop

fiddle [n]: a violin

folk music [n]: traditional music from a particular place

genre [n]: a particular style used in art, music, etc.

harmony [n]: when two or more musical notes are sung or played at the same time to make a pleasant sound

hometown [n]: the town or city where you grow up

immigrant [n]: someone who comes to live in a country from another country

lively [adj]: full of energy

lyrics [n]: the words of a song

moving [adj]: making you feel emotional

prominent [adj]: important and well-known

regret [n]: a negative feeling about something that happened in the past

rhythmic [adj]: a sound with a clear and regular pattern

scratch [v]: to produce sounds by moving a record backwards and forwards quickly with your hand

synthesizer [n]: an electronic machine that produces and combines different sounds

tenor [adj]: a male voice singing in the middle and higher musical range

tough [adj]: difficult

turntable [n]: a record player used by DJs

working-class [adj]: describing the social class of people who mainly work in manual jobs

work out [v]: be successful