

**Brainstorming music vocabulary Updated August 2016**

*Brainstorm as many suitable words as you can into each category below.*

**Genres of music**

**Positive words to describe music**

**Negative words to describe music**

**Ways of making music (instruments etc)**

**Ways of listening to music**

**People related to music (including groups of people)**

**Places related to music**

**Any other music vocabulary**

*Compare your ideas as a class. You get one point for each correct expression which isn't on other groups' sheets and/ or isn't on the suggested answer sheet below.*

## Suggested vocabulary

### Genres of music

- (Christmas) *carols*
- (Western) *classical music*
- (traditional) court music
- (traditional) *folk music*
- 12-tone music
- 70s music
- 80s music
- AOR
- African music
- Brit pop
- *EDM*
- Gregorian chant
- J-pop/ Japanese pop music
- Japanese “idoru”
- K-pop
- Latin
- Mersey beat
- MoR
- New Age music
- R&B
- Shibuya-kei
- UK garage
- acid jazz/ jazz funk
- ambient/ chillout
- avant garde music
- *background music/ elevator music/ muzak*
- barbershop/ acappella
- bhangra
- big band (jazz)
- bluegrass
- blues
- bossa nova
- *boy bands*
- brass band
- *bubblegum pop*
- calypso
- chamber music
- chanson
- choral music
- *classic rock*
- comic songs
- country (and western)
- *crooners*
- dancehall
- death metal/ speed metal
- disco

- drum and bass/ jungle
- dubstep
- easy listening
- emo
- flamenco
- folk rock
- funk
- fusion
- *girl bands/ girl groups*
- gospel
- grime
- grunge
- heavy rock/ heavy metal
- house
- *indie/ alternative (rock)*
- love songs
- marching band
- military music
- minimalist music
- musicals
- national anthems/ patriotic songs
- new romantic
- new wave/ post-punk
- novelty songs
- opera
- operetta
- post-rock
- prog rock
- protest music
- psychedelic music
- pub rock
- punk
- rap/ hip hop
- reggae
- reggaeton
- religious music (hymns etc)
- rock opera
- rock'n'roll
- salsa
- samba
- shoegaze
- singer songwriters
- ska
- skiffle
- soft rock
- soul
- synth pop
- techno

- *top forty music/ chart music/ mainstream music*
  - *trance*
  - *visual kei*
  - *world music*
- NOT ethnic music X*  
*NOT Japanese pops X*  
*NOT idol X*  
*NOT BGM X*  
*NOT indies X*

### **Positive words to describe music**

- *a (cult) classic*
- *an (undiscovered) masterpiece*
- *angelic*
- *catchy*
- *danceable*
- *deep*
- *evocative*
- *exotic*
- *experimental*
- *funky*
- *heartfelt*
- *hummable*
- *iconic*
- *influential*
- *innovative*
- *melodic*
- *moving*
- *original*
- *relaxing*
- *rhythmic*
- *romantic*
- *simple*
- *soothing*
- *timeless*
- *toe tapping*
- *underground*
- *unique*
- *upbeat*
- *velvety*

### **Negative words to describe music**

- *(instantly) forgettable*
- *a racket*
- *amateurish*
- *annoying/ irritating*
- *bland*
- *boring/ dull*

- caterwauling
- cheesy
- childish lyrics
- difficult second album
- distortion
- flat
- *manufactured*
- melodramatic
- mid-tempo
- monotonous
- notorious
- off key
- out of tune
- over the top
- overpriced
- *overrated*
- predictable
- *pretentious*
- repetitive
- ridiculous lyrics/ silly lyrics
- rude lyrics
- screeching
- self-indulgent
- *sentimental/ sappy*
- taboo lyrics
- *unbearable*
- uninspired
- *unoriginal*
- violent lyrics
- weird

### **Ways of making music (instruments etc)**

- (double) bass
- 12-string guitar
- Jewish harp
- Melodica
- accordion
- acoustic guitar
- amp(lifier)
- bagpipes
- banjo
- bass (guitar)
- bassoon
- baton
- bow
- brass
- bugle
- castanets

- *clapping*
- clarinet
- clicking your fingers
- comb
- cymbals
- decks
- drumsticks
- electric guitar
- electric piano
- flute
- harp
- harpsichord
- *humming*
- keyboard
- loudspeaker
- maracas
- mic(rophone)
- mouth organ
- oboe
- organ
- pedal
- percussion
- piano
- piccolo
- pick
- recorder
- reed instrument
- remix
- sampling
- scat (singing)
- scratching
- snare (drum)
- spoons
- steel pans
- strings
- tambourine
- trombone
- trumpet
- tuba
- ukulele
- viola
- washboard
- whistling
- wine glass
- woodwind
- *xylophone*

### **Ways of listening to music**

- (greatest hits) compilations
- (illegal) downloads
- CD (player)
- DAB/ digital radio
- TV talent shows
- album
- car stereo
- cassette
- festival
- *gig/ concert*
- headphones
- juke box
- juke box musicals
- live
- mp3 (player)
- music television
- personal stereo/ walkman
- pop videos
- radio
- radio cassette player/ ghetto blaster
- record/ vinyl
- reel to reel (tape recorder)
- single
- smartphone
- stadium concerts
- *stereo/ hi-fi*
- streaming music

*NOT radio case X*

*NOT rajio X*

### **People related to music (including groups of people)**

- (concert) promoter
- (recording) engineer
- A&R man
- DJ
- MC
- Svengali
- VJ
- arranger
- backing singer
- bell ringers
- *busker/ street musician*
- choirboy
- choreographer
- composer
- conductor
- diva

- drummer
- falsetto
- guitarist
- lead singer
- lyricist
- manager
- music teacher
- musician
- one-man band
- percussionist
- quartet
- quintet
- rhythm guitarist
- session musicians
- soloist
- soprano
- studio engineer
- trio
- violinist
- vocalist

*NOT back singer X*

### **Places related to music**

- ballroom
- cabaret (club)
- cathedral
- church
- *club/ disco*
- concert hall
- *concert venue*
- music festivals
- music shop
- opera house
- outdoor festival
- pub
- (secondhand) record shop
- stadium
- the street
- warehouse

*NOT live house X*

*NOT stajium X*

### **Any other music vocabulary**

- (guitar) *feedback*
- (guitar) solo
- a note
- *a verse*
- acoustic/ unplugged

- aria
- chord
- concept album
- concerto
- cover (version)
- duet
- echo
- high
- improvisation
- jamming
- *jingle*
- karaoke
- key
- lip-synching
- *lyrics*
- metronome
- mic stand
- movement
- movie soundtracks
- music documentaries
- music stand
- overture
- perfect pitch
- retro
- reverb
- sharp
- sheet music
- stave
- symphony
- *the chorus*
- *the tune*
- tone deaf
- tuning fork
- vocals

NOT song words X

NOT O.S. X