

Music for People
Musicianship and Leadership Program
MUSICAL STYLES

Styles: Characteristics

Historical Music Periods

Composers

Medieval (1100-1400)

Gregorian Chant

Flowing, melismatic vocal line using lowered 7th

Renaissance (1500-1600)

J. Dowland, W. Byrd

Recorders, flutes, tambourines, bells, hand drums
Simple melodies, often in 6/8, Madrigals

Baroque (1600-1750)

Handel, Bach, Vivaldi

Simple, ornamental, regal, much use of sixteenth
notes and counterpoint

Classical (1750-1820)

Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven

Energy, light feel, tonal, structured sonatas
concertos, symphonies

Romantic (1820-1900)

Tchaikovsky, Schubert
Chopin, Rachmaninoff

Passionate, emotional, lush, full orchestra

Impressionistic (1890-1920)

Debussy, Ravel

Whole tone scale, wisps of melody

Contemporary (1900-present)

Individual, rhythmic, dissonance, atonal

Bartok, Stravinsky
Schoenberg, Copland

Jazz

Ragtime	Scott Joplin, Jelly Roll Morton
Swing	Stan Kenton, David Brubeck, Glen Miller
Traditional Jazz	Dizzy Gillespie, Count Basie
Modern Jazz	Miles Davis, Wynton Marsallis

Other Styles:

Country Western	
Gospel	
Rock	
Rap, Hip Hop	
New Age	
Environmental	
Avant-garde	forefront of experimental musical style

Ethnic:

Irish	Simple, 6/8, grace notes
Native American	Heartbeat pulse and vocal
Indian	Sitar, Drone and melody, Tabla
English Country Dance	
Balinese	Gamelan
African	Drums, Call and Response
Oriental	Pentatonic scale
Latin Rhythms	Merengue, Samba
Brazilian, Cuban	