

FORM 2 MUSIC WORK

CATEGORIES OF MUSIC

1) LULLABIES

These are songs sung to lull babies. They contain simple tunes that quiet babies to sleep.

2) GAME SONGS

These are children's singing games. They imitate an activity or game which has a related song. The children may also imitate the actions of adults. Singing games bring the children together to entertain themselves. They are usually performed during the day or evenings to get rid of idleness.

3) TRADITIONAL FOLK SONGS

In Traditional African societies, each ethnic group has a variety of folk songs. The music is centered on events and matters that concern the members of the community. These also deal with everyday life issues or the activities, traditions, customs, and beliefs. The songs performed include marriage songs, harvest, wrestling songs, war songs, story songs, initiation songs among other songs. These folk songs transmit cultural values and practices to the members of the community.

4) POPULAR (POP) SONGS

Popular music is the type of music that appeals to the mind. It is now western (non-classical) and is commercially promoted. It is performed in clubs, and other entertainment places. It

is the type of music that anyone can dance to and it includes hip-hop, Reggae, Benga, Genge, Bongo and so on.

5) NATIONAL SONGS

These are songs about a country that assist in bringing the citizens together to work towards national goals and these are divided into four types.

- a) **PATRIOTIC SONGS** - These assist the citizens to express their support towards a country and its leaders
- b) **NATIONAL SONGS** - This is the official song of any country performed at international and national events. For example; *Oh Uganda may God uphold thee*
- c) **POLITICAL SONGS** - These are songs designed by political parties to boost their image. For example; *Tubonga naawe*
- d) **TOPICAL SONGS** - These are songs based on specific topics on issues affecting the society. For example, corruption, HIV-Aids, smoking, and so on. These songs are intended to pass on educational messages to the public and to correct social ills. For example; *Walumbe zaaya* and *Dunia mbaaya* about HIV/Aids

6) SACRED MUSIC

These are songs sung in various situations to appease God and examples include;

- 1) **TRADITIONAL AFRICAN SACRED FOLK SONGS** - Every traditional African community has sacred folk songs that are performed to thank God, ask for forgiveness, or request for something. These are performed in the traditional idioms of the community concerned.

- 2) **AFRICAN/AMERICAN (NEGRO) SPIRITUALS** - These are songs performed by black-Americans. These songs were developed in a Black/ Western combination of American cultures and were created by Black-Americans for the purpose of praying to God due to the suffering that these people underwent and could pray to god for deliverance from the sufferings. Such songs include; Ride on King Jesus and Ride the Chariot.
- 3) **HYMNS** -These are songs praising the Deity or Saints and were particularly associated with the Anglican Church. The words and melodies of the hymns are especially popular for the congregational singing. For example; Amazing Grace and Abide in me.

ACTIVITY

Identify the different occasions in your community in which song and dances are performed

ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF MUSIC

Role refers to the purpose of music in the lives of those people who make this kind of music that is its importance.

The word Function is used to denote the reason for using music in a given activity.

The terms role and function are used interchangeably. In the same case, music may be used with no function. This is like whistling without purpose. In traditional African societies, music always had a role to play in every occasion during which it was performed. The following are some of the roles and functions of music as is performed at different occasions.

CHILD BIRTH

Music is performed to;

- Praise the parents for the new born
- Welcome the new born
- Entertain the people gathered

CHILD NAMING

Music is performed to;

- Appease the ancestors from whom the child's name is chosen
- Entertain the people gathered

INITIATION

Before initiation, songs and dances are performed to;

- Encourage the initiates to be brave
- mock the cowards
- tell the historical aspects of initiation in the community
- entertain the initiates

After the initiation, singing is undertaken to;

- congratulate the initiates for the bravery
- mock the cowards
- educate the initiates about their new roles in the society

- welcome the initiates to adult life in society

MARRIAGE

The songs and dances are performed to;

- praise the groom and bride
- mock either of them depending on the group performing
- advise them on their new roles
- welcome the bride to her new home
- entertain the gathering

COMMUNAL WORK

The songs and dances are performed to;

- make work appear easy
- boost the morale of the workers
- thank God for the good harvest
- mock the lazy workers
- encourage the community members to work together

FUNERALS

The songs and dances are performed to:

- console the bereaved family
- entertain the mourners
- send off the dead warmly

- music is performed as dirges to praise God

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

The songs and dances are performed to;

- entertain those gathered
- mock the drunkards
- praise the beer brewers
- praise the leaders
- praise the strong wrestlers
- mock the lazy and those who loose
- praise the bulls and mock those that loose
- Ridicule wrong doers by calling them names.

ASSIGNMENT 2

Study your community and identify the role that music plays