



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: WORLD MUSIC 2



Ancient Egyptian Music

*Music was important in the everyday life of the Ancient Egyptians. We know this from pictures and archaeology



*Music took place in work shops, palaces, on farms, the battlefield, during religious ceremonies and even in tombs

*The gods Hathor and Bes were gods of music and had many ceremonies dedicated to them. Musicians accompanied dancing and singing on musical instruments when these gods were honoured



*Instruments included *rattles*, *hand-held drums*, *bells*, *castanets* and an instrument called the *sistrum*.

The *sistrum* was a hand-held metallic instrument in the shape of a 'U.' When moved or shaken it gave off many sounds like a loud clanking or a soft jingling depending on how it was played



*Ancient Egyptians played instruments that looked like trumpets and flutes; and string instruments were plucked not bowed as we would a violin. There are many images of

Egyptians playing lyres, harps and lutes

*Different musicians could play for specific events. A musician with high status could play for a religious ceremony in a temple for example and only the '*Shemavet*' were allowed to play for the gods or goddesses. These musicians had the highest honour of all and were mostly women!

Gods and goddesses—How many can you name? Here are a few:

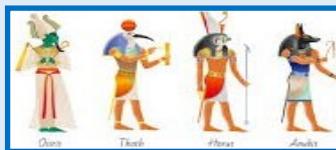
Osiris—God of the Underworld

Horus—God of War and Hunting

Seth—God of Chaos, Violence, Deserts and Storms

Anubis—associated with death, funerals and mummification

Thoth—God of Writing and Wisdom



Egyptian Music Today

*If you went to Egypt today, you would hear that music is a combination of many different styles

*You might hear music of the **Nubian people**. These people live in the region along the River Nile. This sounds very **traditional**. You might hear **folk music**. You might hear **religious** music. Many people are Muslim so music would be predominately **Islamic**. You would hear **Modern Arabic** music. *Amr Diab* and *Elissa* are some of the most popular modern Arabic music artists. You might hear **Western Art Music** such as the music from the composers on the Wall of Fame in the Music Room, and of course you might hear **Pop Music** from the likes of *Ed Sheeran*.

*Traditional Egyptian instruments include the **oud**, a fretless lute, a **ganun**, a type of zither, a **kawala**, a type of flute and a **doubek**, a type of drum



Recreating Egyptian Music

*Create a musical phrase that includes semitones. A *semitone* is a small step between the notes as indicated by the arrows.



*Try playing an *A minor chord* (ACE) on the piano and then an *E major chord* (EG#B)

*Add some drum beats. Try the rhythm *bee*, *spider*, *worm*

*Be *repetitive* and make the music *hypnotic*

**Sustain* the notes in the tune so they sound like a drone (hold on to them for a long time)

*Often the tune sound *improvised* (made up)

*Often there is only one tune (*monophonic*)