



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: VOICE AND SONGS 1



- *Many folk songs are hundreds of years old and were passed down orally through several generations. Often songs were memorized as people couldn't read or write
- *Folk songs are often related to national culture as people learn songs from the same country as their grandparents
- *Folk songs often commemorate historical and other events so as can learn from the past by studying the lyrics
- *Folk songs can evolve over time and lyrics to songs might be different in different regions so there are many versions. Often we don't even know who wrote the song in the first place. Most folk songs are anonymous
- *Some folk songs originated from doing boring work such as planting, weaving and milling. Some are for entertainment and some for story and history-telling. Some are about war
- *English folk songs are linked to sea-shanties (see Voice and Songs 2), Jigs, Hornpipes and Morris Dancing
- *Ralph Vaughan-Williams (see English Composer 2) collected English folk songs
- *In the 1960s, there was a revival of folk music and this is called contemporary folk music. Folk rock was also popular



Suggested Folk Songs

Cockles and Mussels (Irish)

Lavender's Blue (English dated around 1670)

Scarborough Fair (English dated around 1700. Simon and Garfunkel recorded a version in 1965)

Amazing Grace (An English hymn from 1779. This became popular in the 60s folk revival)

Skye Boat Song (Scottish dated late 1800s. Tom Jones and Rod Stewart recorded versions in the 60s)

Greensleeves (English dated late 1500s. It is popular belief that this was written by Henry VIII although it was more likely Elizabethan)

Charlie is my Darling (Scottish)

The Tree in the Wood (English dated around 1900s)

The Ash Grove (Welsh 1800s)

The Cuckoo (English 1800s)

Anonymous	The writer, artist and/or composer are unknown
Jig	A lively dance with leaping movements
Hornpipe	A lively dance associated with sailors usually performed by one person
Morris Dancing	A form of English folk dance. The dances usually wears bells and hold handkerchiefs. They sometimes bang sticks together. Morris dancers are usually all men!

Hilaire Belloc

- *Belloc (1870—1953) was a writer and poet who grew up in West Sussex and lived in Shipley. He bought the wind-mill there.
- *He loved Sussex songs, collected them and wrote many. Local historian, Chris Hare, has been learning about his work in a lottery funded project.
- *Visit belloc-broadway.org.uk to hear some of his songs and find out more

Simon and Garfunkel

*Simon and Garfunkel were an American folk rock duo—one of the best-selling music groups of the 1960s



*They were inspired by English folk songs.

*Listen to: The Sound of Silence (1965), Mrs Robinson (1968), Bridge Over Troubled Water (1970) and Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme (1966)