UKS2 Knowledge Mat – Dancing In The Street

1 – Listen & Appraise: Dancing In The Street (Motown)

Structure: Intro, verse 1, chorus, bridge, verse 2, chorus, bridge, verse 3.

Instruments/voices you can hear: Female voice and female backing vocals, keyboard, drums, bass guitar (rhythm section), brass section (trumpet, trombone and sax).

Can you find the pulse as you are listening?
Is the tempo fast, slow or inbetween?
Dynamics? Texture?

2 – Musical Activities using instruments

Warm-up games play and copy back using up to 3 notes – F, G + A.

Singing in unison. And with backing vocals
Play instrumental parts with the song by ear and/or from notation. You will be using up to 2 notes – F + G

Improvise using up to 3 notes – D, E + F.

Compose a simple melody using simple rhythms choosing from the notes C, D, E, F + G.

Theme: Motown

Facts/info: Dancing In The Street was written by Marvin Gaye, William "Mickey" Stevenson and Ivy Jo Hunter. It first became popular in 1964 with Martha And The Vandellas. The track was recorded on the Motown record label and became one of its signature songs.



Key vocabulary:

- Soul,
- groove,
- riff,
- bass line,
- backbeat,
- brass section,
- harmony,
- hook,
- melody,
- improvise,
- cover,
- pulse,
- rhythm,
- pitch,
- tempo,
- dynamics,
- timbre,
- texture,
- structure

Listen to 5 other Motown songs:

- I can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie Honey Bunch) by The Four Tops
- I Heard it Through the Grapevine by Marvin Gaye
- Ain't No Mountain High Enough sung by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell
- You Are the Sunshine of My Life by Stevie Wonder
- The Tracks of My Tears sung by Smokie Robinson

3 – Perform & Share

Decide how your class will introduce the performance. Perhaps add some choreography? Tell your audience how you learnt this song and why. Record the performance and talk about it afterwards.

The performance will include one or more of the following:
Improvisations • Instrumental performances • Compositions

Reflection

What did you like best about this Unit? Why?
Was there anything you didn't enjoy about it? Why?
Did you have any strong feelings about it? Were you proud of yourself, happy or annoyed?

What are the 'style indicators' of Motown?
How do you know this is Motown?