Learning and Teaching of Local and Western Popular Music (Re-run) Introduction, Elvis Presley and the Beatles 3 May 2016

What is popular music?

- ♦ Having wide appeal to large audiences
- ♦ Commodity a product of music industry
- ♦ Produced and stored in non-written form

Difference between popular music and pop music?

♦ Pop music refers to a specific musical genre.

What are the important features in popular music?

- ♦ Social and cultural contexts, lyrics, musical characteristics
- → Four focuses: harmony, rhythm utilisation, instrumentation, structure
- (melody, tempo, tone colour, duration)
- ♦ **Structure**: Why we love **REPETITION** in music? "The Mere Exposure Effect"
- ♦ **Duration** 2 to 3 mins
- Melody step, repeated notes, leaps, Riff (fill) (repeated chord progression), Lick (single-note melodic lines)
- ♦ Groove is the sense of propulsive rhythmic "feel" or sense of "swing
- ◆ **Hook (主題句?)** is a musical idea, a passage or phrase repeats several times

Don't Take the Girl - Tim McGraw 1994 - His first No.1 single on the Hot Country Songs chart

Rhythm – syncopations

Harmony – I, IV, V (ii, iii, vi)

Treatment of Melody, Rhythm & Harmony in relation to Tempo

Lyrics – question & answer, contrast, descriptive, repetition with variations

Contexts – social, economic and cultural background: Blowing' in the Wind – Bod Dylan, May 1963

Drum set / Drum kit

- ♦ Bass drum with the right-foot pedal, provides the basic beat
- ♦ Snare drum provides the strongest regular accents
- ❖ Hi-hat stand and cymbals provide finer rhythms, mark the change from one passage to another
- ♦ One or more tom-tom drums provide drum fills and solos
- ♦ One or more cymbals provide strong accent marker and musical effect

What were the social and cultural contexts in the 1950s?

- ♦ 4 M immigrants to the States after WWII (after 1946)
- ♦ USA was one of the countries that benefited from the WWII
- ♦ Baby boom 1946-1964 about 78 M people
- ♦ 1950s America was a wealthy and powerful nation, but a troubled one; racial prejudice Respectable, middle-class White teenagers didn't listen to race music.
- ♦ Black teenagers ate at their own lunch counters, and rode at the backs of buses so White teenagers could claim the best seats for themselves.
- ♦ 1950s songs that were energetic, rebellious, sexual drive
- ♦ 1960s songs that were more philosophical, thoughtful
- ♦ American Dream in 1960s

 \Diamond

Elvis Presley (1935-1977)

What was his family background?

Elvis was born Elvis Aron (or 'Aaron') Presley on 8 January 1935 in Tupelo, Mississippi, a small town in the Deep South of the United States. Elvis's family was poor.

What was his musical heritage?

- As a child he listened mostly to gospel music and later sang in several gospel choirs as a member of the First Assembly of God Church.
- ✦ He also listened to the hillbilly music associated with poor white Southerners and their social problems. In 1948 the Presley family moved to Memphis, Tennessee.
- → Hillbilly backward, violent, and uncivilized musical genres including bluegrass, country western, and gospel.
- ♦ The blend came to be known as rockabilly. The term "rockabilly" itself is a portmanteau of "rock" (from "rock 'n' roll") and "hillbilly". At the time, Presley was variously billed as "The King of Western Bop", "The Hillbilly Cat", and "The Memphis Flash".
- ♦ Elvis was everything forbidden: he came from a poor southern family, spoke 'hillbilly' English, and disrupted every audience he played and sang for.

Why he was so popular?

- → The King of Rock and Roll, the King
- ♦ Good-looking, moody, and, above all, a white singer with a black sound and a unique feeling for the Blues.
- ♦ Height: 6'0" (1.82m)
- ❖ Elvis possessed a fine, rich voice, a good musical ear, and a great love of music. The Oxford Companion to Popular Music
- ♦ Energised interpretations of songs and sexually provocative performance style, combined with a singularly potent mix of influences across colour lines. Wikipedia
- ♦ John Lennon: "Before Elvis there was nothing."

Did he succeed from the start?

When did Presley rise to fame?

- ♦ Suddenly Elvis appeared, merging Black and White in his music.
- ♦ Until 1956, when Elvis's personal appearances, TV performances, and recordings transformed popular music throughout the United States.
- ✦ His powerful stage presence challenged the values of many conservative Americans, who perceived his glamorous bad-boy appeal as 'dangerous'.
- ♦ As a performer Elvis was most innovative at the beginning (between 1954-1958) and toward the end (1967-1972) of his career.

What are his singing styles?

✦ His performances elements from different American singing styles, including gospel, rockabilly, hillbilly (sometimes called country-western) and bel canto singing.

What is R&B?

- ♦ Originated in African-American communities in the "Deep South" of the United States around the end of the 19th century.
- ♦ The call-and-response pattern and specific chord progressions, of which the twelve-bar blues is the most common.
- ♦ Blues shuffles or walking bass form a repetitive effect called a groove.
- ♦ twelve-bar blues:

17	17 or IV7	17	17	
IV7	IV7	17	17	
V7	V or <u>IV7</u>	17	17	ĺ

What are the features of rock and roll / rock 'n' roll / R & R?

- ♦ A White term for Rhythm 'n' Blues / R & B.
- Emphatic and driving beat with an accentuated backbeat
- Classic R & R is usually played with 1 or 2 electric guitars (lead and rhythm guitars), string bass or electric bass guitar and a drum kit. Topics of cars, school, dating and clothing

Hound Dog (1956)

- ♦ In fact, "Hound Dog" was originally recorded in 1952 by Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton, a talented African-American coon shouter.
- ♦ Elvis successfully covered (or re-recorded) "Hound Dog" four years later. Elvis managed to sound Black even though he was ethnically White.
- ♦ **Harmony**: A typical blues 3-chrod song. It is a twelve-bar blues song:

C7	C7	C7	C7	
F7	F7	C7	C7	
G7	F7	C7	C7	

♦ Rhythm Untilisation: Begins with upbeats with backbeats.

Singing Style

- ♦ Elvis presents himself as a coon shouter
- ♦ Elvis also 'mispronounces' some words: 'nothin' instead of 'nothing'; 'cryin' instead of 'crying'.

Heartbreak Hotel (1956)

- ♦ Presley's first million-seller and one of the best-selling singles of 1956.
- ♦ **Harmony:** An 8-bar blues 3-chrod song. It comprises an eight-bar blues progression:

E7	E7	E7	E7	
A7	A7	В7	E7	

- ♦ Flattened 7ths and 3rds except when the word "lonely" is repeated and a normal G# was used.
- ♦ Melody is based on blues pentatonic scale.
- ♦ **Structure**: Stop time accents in verse. The verses are an octave higher than the chorus.

Four verses are broken with a guitar solo.

- ♦ **Instrumentation:** High guitar/snare on stop accents
- ♦ Only voice and double bass on first chorus
- ♦ Brush drums & guitar counter riff on second chorus
- ♦ Blues piano trills added on third chorus.
- ♦ Guitar plays Elmore James style solo riff at 12th fret.
- ♦ Piano adds walking bass beneath guitar solo and takes over solo with blue note trills in high octave.
- ♦ Band play triplet accent at the end of last verse.
- ♦ Bass descent outro followed by guitar: F9th/ E9th

Love Me Tender (1956)

- ♦ The song was adapted from the tune of a 1861 civil war song "Aura Lee" (or "Aura Lea"), a sentimental Civil War ballad.
- ♦ Harmony: use of secondary dominants
- ♦ Tempo: largo, ballad style
- ❖ Instrumentation: acoustic guitar as it is the only instrument that is played.
- ♦ The music review that the song gives is very emotional, soothing and relaxing.

Verse 1

D (I) E7 (V7/V) A7 (V7) D (I) Love me tender, love me sweet, Never let me go.

D (I) E7 (V7/V) A7 (V7) D (I)

You have made my life complete, And I love you so.

Chorus

D (I)	F#7 (V7/vi)	Bm (vi)	D7 (V7/IV)	G (IV) G	Gm (iv)	D (I)
Love me	tender,	love me	true,	All my	dreams	fulfilled
D (I)	B7 (II7/V)	E7(V7/\	/)	A7 (V)		D (I)

For my darling I love you, And I always will.

The Beatles (1962 1st recording -1970 disbanded)

The best-selling band in history, the Beatles have sold between 600 million and (at EMI estimates) over 1 billion units worldwide. - Wikipedia

How did the Beatles start?

- ♦ played in the now famous Cavern in Liverpool
- came to the attention of Brian Epstein, who became their manager

What are their names and roles?

- John Lennon (rhythm guitar, vocal), Paul McCartney (Bass, vocal), George Harrison (Lead guitar), Ringo Starr (Drums)
- ♦ Smart, handsome, humorous

What is his musical heritage?

♦ They played **skiffle** in 1950s. Skiffle songs were supported by three-chord accompaniments played on harmonica, acoustic guitar, and washboard or drums.

What were their contemporaries?

Of Presley, Lennon said, "Nothing really affected me until I heard Elvis. If there hadn't been Elvis, there would not have been the Beatles."

What are the musical characteristic of his music?

- Melodic Writing: McCartney's melody lines are characterised as primarily "vertical", employing wide, consonant intervals
- ♦ Harmony: Lennon's favours minimalism, dissonant intervals and repetitive melodies
- ❖ Instrumentation: George Harrison's lead guitar work for the role his "characterful lines and textural colourings"
- ♦ Instrumentation: Ringo Starr as "the father of modern pop/rock drumming".
- ♦ Often incorporating classical elements

The Royal Variety Performance 4 Nov 1963

What are Beatlemania and British invasion?

- ♦ Assassination of John Kennedy on 20 Nov 1963
- ♦ I Want to Hold Your Hand No.1 Hit on 1 Feb 1964 in the USA
- ♦ 7 Feb 1964 the Ed Sullivan Show

I Want to Hold Your Hand 1964

→ Harmony: In the key of G major; Power chord – C5 & D5



♦ Rhythm Utilisation: Clapping recurring rhythms (rhythmic ostinato)



- ♦ Starts with a falling melody, the word "understand" the melody falls from note B to note F#, hold "your hand" rise from note B to note F# (high B) on chords Em to B7; a B7 or even a B5 power chord with no major or minor defining third
- ♦ Dm instead D (V) in the refrain, "And when I" touch you; "It's such a" feeling that my love
- Ends on a plagal cadence C-G with crochet triplets over two beats



What happen when they came to Hong Kong in 1964?

What are their musical styles in late 1960s?

"Nowhere Man", entirely unrelated to romance or love, trait of John Lennon's philosophically oriented songwriting.

- ♦ Harmony: Lennon, McCartney, and George Harrison sing the song in three-part harmony at the beginning
- ♦ A descending scale of 5-4-3-2-1 on the melody of the first phrase
- ♦ Begins with E (I) chord on "He's a real", then B (V) chord on "nowhere man", A (IV) chord on "sitting in"; but with a twist of Am (iv) replaces A on "nowhere plans" with a note G# on "no" that creates a dissonant Am/maj 7.



The chorus shifts between G#m (iii) and A (IV) before leading back to the verse with F#m (ii) and B7 (V)

Nowhere Man 1966

He's a real <u>nowhere</u> man
Sitting in his <u>nowhere</u> land
Making all his nowhere plans for nobody

Psychedelic Rock

Lennon described the LSD experience: "It was just terrifying, but it was fantastic."

Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds 1967

- ♦ Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds (LSD)
- ♦ Written primarily by John Lennon.
- ♦ Instrumentation: George Harrison lead electric guitar put through a Leslie speaker and tamboura. It's an Indian instrument similar to a sitar that makes a droning noise. He had been studying with Indian musician Ravi Shankar; Paul McCartney plays a counter melody on Lowery organ.
- ❖ Special Effects: The use of studio recording techniques, especially the heavy reverb and double tracking applied to Lennon's vocal solo, creates a wavy, heard-through-water vocal
- ♦ An effect that suggests the unreality
- ♦ **Rhythm Utilisation**: verses in simple triple meter (3/4), chorus in simple quadruple time (4/4)
- ♦ The heavy drum beats that establish the rhythm of the song's refrain
- ♦ Harmony: It is A major for verses, Bb major for the pre-chorus and G major for the chorus

Why did they break up?

In late 1968, tensions were further aggravated by Lennon's romantic preoccupation with avant-garde artist Yoko Ono, whom he insisted on bringing to the sessions despite the group's well-established understanding that girlfriends were not allowed in the studio.

Let It Be 1970

- ♦ Written and sung by Paul McCartney. I
- ❖ Instrumentation: The piano intro, each phrase in the verse and chorus, bridge played by organ, and outro are all ended in plagal cadence (F − C).
- → Harmony: Recurring chord progressions (ostinatos) in:

Verse:	С	G	Am	Fmaj7	С	G	F	С	
Chorus:	Am	G	F	С	С	G	F	С	

What are their musical influences?

- ♦ Sound of Silence Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel, Oct 1964 & 1966, the album "Wednesday Morning" was initially not successful, having been released in the shadow of the Beatles' arrival in the USA.
- ♦ The Album was re-released in 1966 with a re-mixed electric/acoustic version on the song "Sound of Silence".

Lennon was shot and killed in December 1980, and Harrison died of lung cancer in November 2001.

Canto-pop in Hong Kong, Sam Hui & Joseph Koo

A Sudden Increase in Population in 1950s

- ♦ In 1950s, refugees and influx of immigrants from Shanghai and Guangzhou
- ♦ Professionals: Shanghai tailors, businessman and social elite, artists, singers and musicians
- ♦ By 1951, the population reached to 2.2 million with an increase of 1 million in every 10 years
- ♦ cheap labour, investment and technological advancement in industries
- ♦ A 'boom decade' with virtually no unemployment
- ♦ Rapid industrialisation driven by textile, electronics, watches, clocks, printing and manufacturing industries, an important export and re-export harbour in the 1950s

Social, Economic & Political Unrest; Human & Natural Disasters in 1960s

- ♦ A turbulent decade of extensive economic, social and cultural changes in the 60s
- ♦ Corruption and inefficiency of public services, political and social unrest**Human disaster**, e.g. fire in 1952 Tung Tau Estate and fire in 1953 Shek Kip Mei
- ♦ Natural disaster between 1961-64, droughts and water supply for 4 hours on every 4th day
- ♦ Bank run in 1965, 1/4 drop of stock market in 1965, 31% drop in 1967

Government Response to the Situation in 1970s

- ♦ 6-year and 9-year compulsory and free education in 1971 and 1978
- ♦ Ten Years Housing Scheme launched in 1972
- ♦ Adoption of Chinese as official language besides English and the establishment of ICAC in 1974
- ♦ Building of hospitals, QE, QM, PM, PW
- ♦ New towns development in Sha Tin and Tuen Mun
- ♦ Planning of MTR in 1970s and opened in early 1980s

Economic and Social Scenes in the 1970s

- ♦ By 1969, 90% homes reached by the broadcasting services, Popularity of television
- → Television became an integral part of everyday life

What was the music scene before Sam Hui and Joseph Koo?

- ◆ Three main streams in the popular music scene in 1950s and 1960s, Cantonese operatic songs in local Cantonese film (粵語長片), Shanghai-based Mandarin songs and English popular songs
- ♦ Cantonese popular songs were regarded as low standard, 'old-fashioned' and bad taste, poor image among the public
- ♦ The songs of Elvis Presley and the Beatles played in herbal teashops
- ♦ The arrival of the Beatles in 1964 stimulate the formation of bands

Hong Kong Popular Music Scene in the 1950s and 1960s

- ♦ Singing Cantonese operatic songs in music societies and Chinese restaurants
- ♦ Western pop songs and Mandarin songs predominated, Cantonese songs were regarded as bad taste and often associated with lower class
- ◆ Cantonese songs mainly appeared in movies (粵語長片), e.g. 《一水隔天涯》, 《女殺手》, 《青青河邊草》, 《姑娘十八似花嬌》

Hong Kong Popular Music Scene in the 1970s

- ♦ Three main streams: Western pop songs, Mandarin songs and Cantonese songs
- ◆ Singers from South East Asia 鄭錦昌 (粵曲王子) and 麗莎 singing Cantonese pop songs with the

influence of Cantonese operatic songs such as 唐山大兄

1974 was an important year in the Cantonese popular song history

- ◆ 《鐵塔凌雲》1974, a song from a TV programme 「雙星報喜」
- ◆ The second Cantonese TV theme song, 《啼笑姻緣》 1974
- ♦ Cantonese popular songs widely accepted in Hong Kong by 1974

Sam Hui (1948 -) 許冠傑

What is his background?

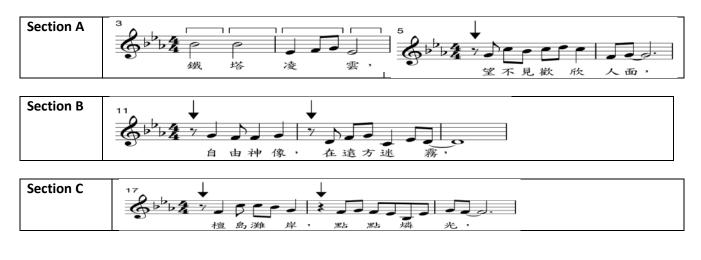
- ◆ 歌神 a legendary Cantonese pop singer and composer
- ♦ Born in China, migrated to HK at age 2 in 1950, later lived in So Uk Estate, educated in HK
- ♦ Graduated at the HKU majoring in Psychology
- ♦ His father played Chinese instruments and mother sang Cantonese operatic songs

What are the musical characteristic of his music?

- ♦ R 'n' R, R 'n' B
- ♦ Special gift in writing melodies
- ♦ Ability to accommodate Chinese and Western elements
- ♦ The philosophical, satirical, ideological, emotional contents appealed to both the middle & working classes

《鐵塔凌雲》1974

- ◆ A song being sung in a TV programme 雙星報喜 in 1972
- ♦ At that time Cantonese songs were despised with low status
- ♦ Lyrics were written by Hui Koon Man, melody composed by Sam Hui
- ♦ Written in formal language
- ◆ Composing sequence: lyrics then melody (先詞後曲)
- ♦ Keys: Eb major and c minor
- ♦ Structure: Through-composed with 4 sections: ABCD
- ♦ Rhythm utilisation: Most phrases start on off beats except the first phrase





《鬼馬雙星》1974

- ♦ Innovative musical styles that integrated with Western music styles and instrumentation
- ♦ Written in colloquial
- ♦ Moderato with R 'n' R style, rhythmical

- Instrumentation: Electric guitar solo with fuzz effect
- ♦ Cowbell on regular crochet beats
- ♦ Structure: AABA structure (with repeat)
- ♦ Special recording effect: Double tracking in section B
- ♦ Harmony: Mainly pentatonic with occasional fa
- ♦ The melody ended on dominant, not on tonic, with a speaking falsetto ending

《半斤八兩》1976

- ♦ Structure: Intro A A B A Bridge B A Coda
- ♦ Harmony: E minor and G major
- ♦ Only three notes in Section B (sol, lah, mi)
- ♦ Rhythm utilisation: Clapping on backbeats
- ♦ Call and response
- ♦ Special effects: Human sound on the first beat in every two bars
- ♦ Dog barks
- ♦ **Instrumentation:** Electric guitar solo as bridge for 8 bars
- ♦ The riff as intro and coda
- ♦ Written in colloquial

《加價熱潮》1979 (A Cover version of Rock Around the Clock by Bill Haley)

- ♦ Rhythm utilisation: Clapping on backbeats
- ♦ Walking bass
- ♦ **Instrumentation:** Electric guitar solo as bridge for 8 bars
- ♦ Structure: twelve-bar blues:

17	17	17	17	
IV7	IV7	17	17	
V7	V7	17	17	

Joseph Koo (1933 -) 顧嘉煇

What is Joseph Koo's background?

- ♦ Emigrated to Hong Kong in early 50s
- → Financial assistance from Sir Run Run Shaw and studied in Berklee College of Music in 1960s
- ♦ Resident composer and conductor at TVB in 1973
- ♦ Concentrated on composing & arranging music

《煙雨濛濛》1973

- ◆ The first TV theme song in Cantonese, 《啼笑因緣》was not the first one
- ♦ Gradually moved away from the influences of Cantonese operatic songs in instrumentation, but formal Cantonese language writing was still used
- ♦ Piano predominated with electric organ, simple rhythmic patterns played by drum set, electric guitar fill-ins

《啼笑因緣》 1974

- ♦ Structure: Intro AABA Coda
- ♦ Written in formal Chinese language
- ♦ Rhythm Utilisation: Syncopations in Section A, regular rhythms in Section B

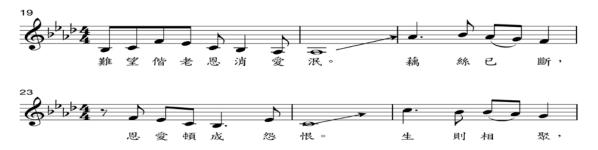


Melodic Writing

♦ The last few notes of previous phrase is the same with the first few notes of subsequent phrase in Section A



♦ Octave leaps in Section B to create the climax



♦ Two sequences in Section B



- → Pentatonic scale in Section A on A, E major on Section B
- ❖ Instrumentation: Crossover in the use of Western and Chinese instruments: guitar strumming in the intro, erhu plays variation of the melody, zheng, yue qin, woodblock, strings, piano, bass guitar, drum set

Common features of Elvis Presley, Sam Hui and Sandra Leung

- ♦ Elvis Presley was a White singing black songs with R 'n' B style, came from humble background
- Sam Hui, a university graduate, sang mostly English songs in R 'n' R style began to compose and sing in Cantonese, a working class boy who lived in public housing estate, So Uk Estate
- ◆ Sandra Lang (仙柱拉) is of mixed Chinese and British parentage, who sang mostly English and Mandarin songs before attempted to sing popular songs in Cantonese

《楚留香》1979

- ♦ Structure: intro A A B bridge A B coda
- ♦ Instrumentation: Female 'ah' used in intro, bridge and coda
- ♦ Crossover: the use of Western and Chinese instruments: horn, oboe, erhu, zheng, pipa
- Melody Writing: G octave leap in the beginning of intro for female 'ah'
- Melody mainly lies on high tessitura with occasional low notes to represent the characteristics of freedom, carefree and charisma of the main character
- ♦ The melisma on D and C# on the word '去' matches with the Cantonese pronunciation of this word
- ♦ **Rhythm Utilisation**: Rhythmic ostinato played by bass drum and timpani
- ♦ Contrast in the use of rhythms between Sections A & B, phrases mainly begin on downbeat in Section A and off beat in Section B, and use of triplet in Section B

《今晚夜》1982

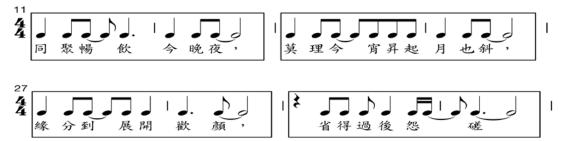
- ♦ A light-hearted, glamorous and colourful song depicts the happy and enjoyable life style, night life, dancing and drinking, reflects the prosperity in the 1980s in HK
- ♦ Structure: intro A A B A bridge A A B A coda
- ♦ Intro with an ad lib "la" section by the singer with free tempo
- ♦ Harmony: B minor in Section A and D major in Section B
- ❖ Instrumentation: Use of percussions such as guiro and maracas to depict the happy mood of Latin American music
- ♦ **Instrumentation**: Saxophone plays syncopations after the intro



♦ **Rhythm Utilisation**: Semiquavers played by strings on downbeats or upbeats



❖ Rhythm Utilisation: Recurrent use of syncopations with some variations on rhythms with occasional crochet rest on the first beat



♦ Compositional Device: A sudden pause of two beat to create tension and expectation at the end of the song



Musical Characteristics of Sam Hui and Joseph Koo

Sam Hui – rock 'n' roll, R & B

Joseph Koo – crossover of Western and Chinese music

香港粵語流行曲何去何從?