

Knowledge Enrichment: Workshop on African music (New) (CDI020230283)

Organised by the Arts Education Section of the Curriculum Development Institute,
Education Bureau

Speaker: Africa Center Hong Kong

Programme Aim: To enhance participants' understanding of African music in different cultural contexts through performing and appreciation.

Programme Description:

1. Exploring the intricate threads that interweave melodies, rhythms, and harmonies across various African cultures
2. Fostering a deeper appreciation for the universal language of music
3. Allowing participants to discover the unique characteristics of African music from different regions including, namely Southern Africa, West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, North Africa & the African Diaspora
4. Allowing participants to travel through time, starting with traditional music (drumming, shakers, mbira, etc), and then contemporary music with heavy influences from the traditional music such as Mbaqanga, then finish with Pop music which is trending today e.g. Afrobeats

Selected Musical Instruments

- Drum set
- Guitars
- Piano/ keyboards
- Cello
- Saxophone
- African drums
- Shekere (Yoruba shakers)
- Mbira/ Kalimba
- Hwamanda (Zimbabwean horn)
- Ukulele
- Tambourine

Introduction to African Music

Guided Listening Session: A musical journey from different parts of Africa

Instructor will play short samples from each region of Africa Contexts:

- Music of Southern Africa
 - Popular music (jive, Marabi, Kwaito, house music, Gqom, Amapiano, etc.)
 - Folk music (Zulu isicathamiya singing, harmonic mbaqanga)
 - Botswana pop music “jazz” (little resemblance to the African-American jazz music)
 - *Gumba-gumba* - modernised Zulu and Tswana music mixed with traditional jazz
 - Other examples of music in Botswana: Borankana, Machomane, Dihosana
 - Musical genres in Mozambique: marrabenta, timbila, mapiko, pandza
 - Zimbabwean music - uses instruments including mbira, ngoma drums and hosho; used as a symbol of hope for Zimbabweans fighting for independence from Rhodesia

- Music of East Africa
 - Customarily refers to music in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda
 - East African urban music (offshoot of western popular music such as hip hop and funk, with influence from more traditional African music)
 - *Zilizopendwa* (local urban music in Kenya)
 - *Taarab* (traditional form of music in Tanzania and Kenya; influenced by traditions of the African Great Lakes, North Africa, the Middle East, and the Indian Subcontinent)
 - *Ethiopian music* - a music genre with a distinct pentatonic modal system and characteristically long intervals between some notes; *mezmur*: an Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo music

- Music of West Africa
 - Regional separation of West Africa contributes to the development of two distinct categories of traditional West African music: *Islamic music* (uses *goje* extensively), *indigenous secular music* (uses *djembe* extensively)
 - *Kora* from Senegal is commonly used in West African music
 - Contemporary music in West Africa is widely influenced by American Music, African jazz, and gospel music
 - *Kaiso* music as a result of forced migration during the transatlantic slave trade
 - Originating in the early 20th century, Afrobeat is a popular music genre throughout West Africa with its pioneer being Fela Aníkúlápó Kuti, also known as Abami Eda

- Music of Central Africa
 - *Afrobeat, soukous*, along with Western rock and pop music are popular
 - *Congolese Rumba* - popular dance music genre originating from the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo
 - *Ndombolo* - fast music and dance from the Democratic Republic of Congo
 - *Pygmy* people have complex folk music tradition with polyphony and counterpoint being common components, and with varied rhythmic structures
 - Banda people have trumpet-based music with jazzy structure
 - *Ngbaka* people makes use of *mbela* to make music

- Music of the African Diaspora
 - Mostly refined and developed when there was slavery
 - Vocal works have increased importance with the unavailability of musical instrument
 - Chants, work songs
 - *Ostinato* (persistently repeated motif/ phrase of the same pitch)
 - Melodic transitions of the African diaspora most alive in blues and jazz
 - *Reggae* - music genre originated in Jamaica in the late 1960s; strongly influenced by traditional mento, American jazz, and rhythm and blues; relates social issues
 - *Hip-hop* (aka *rap*) - genre of popular music originated in New York City by African Americans with anti-drug and anti-violence themes; consists of stylised rhythmic music
 - Other examples: dance hole, soccer

- Music of North Africa
 - Egyptian classical music, el Gil, Algerian *rāi* (راي), Chaabi (الشعبي), etc.
 - “*Maghrebian music*” describes music in the broad region of *Maghreb* that excludes Egypt
 - Various folk music with ancient roots from the Berbers, Sephard Jews, Tuaregs, etc.
 - Influenced by Andalusian music from the historically Muslim Iberian Peninsula (example: al-ala in Morocco)

African Drum Jamming

Instructor will introduce the African drum (*djembe*), explain its link to African music.

- Relationship between African Music and Dance and their significance to community
- Afrobeat, Amapiano, Mhande, Tswana dances
 - *Afrobeat* - developed in Nigeria in the late 1960s; incorporates popular Afrobeat moves and classic west African dance steps
 - *Mhande* - traditional performance among the Shona people that incorporates music and dance; performed in mutoro ceremony which is the annual rain ritual of the Karanga
 - *"Tsutsube"* (Tswana traditional dance) - vibrant and energetic dance style originating from the Tswana people of Botswana and South Africa; displays African culture with intricate movements and strong connection to the community

African Dance session

- Amapiano dance
 - Subgenre of house music
 - Emerged in South Africa in the mid-2010s
 - Combination of deep house, jazz, and lounge music
 - Synths and wide percussive bass lines being key characteristics

Mbaqanga session and Jamming

- Introduction to the Mbaqanga music genre

Instructor will demonstrate music instruments used in Afrobeats. Participants will pick up which instruments are in the song. Participants will try out the rhythm as the demonstration goes.
- Song 1: *"Pata Pata"* by Miriam Makeba
 - Internationally popularised Afro-pop dance song by South African singer **Miriam Makeba** nicknamed "Mama Africa" in 1967
 - The singer was a civil rights activist who also worked on hunger, HIV, and domestic violence
 - Song title "Pata Pata" means "touch touch" in the Xhosa language
 - Once called the "world's most defiantly joyful song"
 - The song was once again recorded by UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Angelique Kidjo to spread information and hope in a time of Coronavirus

Afrobeats session and Jamming

- Introduction to the Afrobeats music genre
- Song 2: “*African Giant*” by Burna Boy
 - Fourth studio album by Nigerian singer, songwriter, and record producer **Burna Boy**
 - Burns Boy’s Music: mainly pop and Afrobeats, blending R&B, hip hop, dancehall, and reggae
 - The Los Angeles Times: “savvy and modern but undistracted by obvious crossover moves”
 - His sixth studio album which was released in July 2022 has become the highest debut of an African album on the Billboard 200 Chart, this was also the highest charted Africa album in the Netherlands, United Kingdom and France
 - He was ranked 197th on the list of 200 greatest singers of all time
 - He won Bet International Act at the BET Awards for four times
 - Other songs: Outside (2018), Twice as Tall (2020), Love, Damini (2022)
 - Released in 2019
 - Mixture of Afrobeats, Afrobeat, dancehall, pop, and hip hop