

Music of the Month - July

Bhangra



- Bhangra was originally a folk music and a style of dance from the Punjab region. This is an area formed of North Western India and North Eastern Pakistan.
- Bhangra originated from a dance performed by Sikh and Muslim men in the farming districts and has now become a popular world-wide dance style.
- Bhangra always uses a double sided drum called a 'Dhol' which is played with a soft stick on one side and a hard stick on the other side.



Week 1 - Bhangra Empire



- Bhangra Empire are an American dance group made up of students and young professionals who want to represent and stay connected to their Punjabi culture.
- They have performed at the White House to President Obama and on *America's Got Talent*.
- They have won many awards for their wonderful dance performances.
- This is all alongside studying and working in different professions!

Week 2 - Safri Boyz 'Rahaye Rahaye'



- The founding member of the Safri Boyz was Balwinder Safri and he was from Birmingham.
- He formed the group in the 1990s and they released lots of bhangra hits.
- Rahaye means 'difficulty' and this song is about overcoming adversity.

Balwinder Safri



Week 3 - AR Rahman 'Jai Ho'



- This song is the theme song from the film 'Slumdog Millionaire'.
- Jai Ho means 'let victory prevail' (let there be a winner).
- Jai Ho has elements of bhangra but has lots of other modern influences so would probably be best described as Indian pop music.
- AR Rahman is an Indian composer, record producer, singer, songwriter, musician and philanthropist. He is particularly well known for his work on music for films and has won many awards.