

Year 4 – Lean On Me

Genre: Soul/gospel **Musical Focus:** developing pulse and groove through improvisation

Understanding Music • Warm up – Bronze, Silver, Gold • <u>Genre</u> Lean on me is a Soul/ gospel song by Bill Withers • <u>New Vocabulary</u> gospel, Soul, improvisation, structure-bridge, legato and staccato • <u>Notation</u> C, F, G • <u>Progress</u> Evaluation of individual performance Quiz	Listen and Appraise • <u>I will follow him</u> from Sister Act • <u>Lean On Me</u> by Bill Withers • <u>He Still Loves Me</u> by Walter Williams and Beyoncé • <u>Shackles</u> by Mary Mary • <u>Amazing Grace</u> by Elvis Presley • <u>Lean On Me</u> by The ACM Gospel Choir
Create Sing: <u>Lean on Me</u> (2 vocal parts) Improvise: F, G, A Compose: <u>Lean on Me</u> - Class composition using music explorer - Individual composition exploring 4-8 bars of written notation.	Perform Have you enjoyed performing <u>Lean on Me</u> and learning about soul/gospel music this half term? Can you tell your partner something you have learned this half term about soul/gospel music and how to recognise it? Let's perform the song again all together. How can we make it better this time?

Genre Style Indicators

Gospel music is religious/Christian music where people sing about God in many different styles. Gospel music has a history that can be traced back to the 18th century. In the midst of difficult lives, slaves used songs to inspire inner strength and courage. These songs became known as Negro spirituals, the first authentic American Sacred music. Gospel music is the original form of American Folk music. Blues and R&B are rooted in it.

- Often religious words or words/lyrics that make us think about friendship/ helping
- Lyrics with meaning if the song is not religious
- Strong vocals often with harmony lines
- Choirs singing in a call and response style
- Use of instruments is dependent on the style of the Gospel music.
- Use of syncopated rhythms and an often faster tempo unlike traditional hymns
- The chorus will always be uplifting, it will be emotional
- Has musical crossover appeal to non-religious listeners

If you've enjoyed this song you might like to listen to songs by...



Aretha Franklin
Green



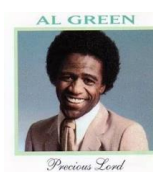
Beverly Knight



Marvin Gaye

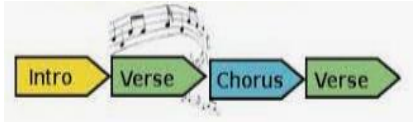
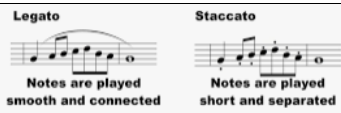


Dionne Warwick



Al

Vocabulary

structure		How the sections of a song are put together to create the entire piece. The sections may include; Intro, Verse, Bridge, Chorus, Instrumental solo or outro. The structure of Lean on Me is; Introduction , Verse 1 (“Sometimes in our lives..”) , Chorus (“Lean on me”... added strings) , Verse 2 (“Please swallow your pride..”), Bridge (“You just call on me brother..”) , Chorus , Bridge , Verse 3 (“If there is a load..”), Outro (“Call me..”)
groove		The rhythmic part of the music that makes you want to move and dance.
Improvisation		The art of composing music while performing it, without the help of a written score. When you improvise, you can express how you feel through the way that you play.
legato and staccato		legato is smooth and connected whereas staccato is the opposite short and separated.

Information about the song

Lean On Me is a soul song written by Bill Withers in 1972. It is a soul song that has been covered and interpreted as a gospel song because of its lyrics. Numerous cover versions have been recorded. Bill Withers spent his childhood in a coal mining town and this was the inspiration for Lean on Me. He wrote the song after he had moved to Los Angeles and found himself missing the strong community he had in his hometown. He lived in a decrepit house in the poor section of town. William Harrison "Bill" Withers, Jr (born July 4, 1938) is an American singer-songwriter and musician who performed and recorded from 1970 until 1985. He recorded a number of hits such as Lean On Me , Ain't No Sunshine, Use Me, Just The Two Of Us, Lovely Day, and Grandma's Hands. Artists who have recorded music written by Bill Withers cover nearly every style of music: pop, jazz country and western, classical, R&B, gospel, and hip hop.

Notation

Playing notes G, A, C	
Composing notes C, D, E (G, A)	
Improvising notes C and D	

Composing Top Tips...

1. **Start and End on the same note.**
2. **Include repeating notes and patterns.**
3. **Keep most of your next note choice close to the previous one.**

Improvising Top Tips...

1. **Don't panic.**
2. **There is no wrong way to improvise!**
3. **Play how you feel at the time.**