



Knowledge Organiser: The Vikings



Topic Background

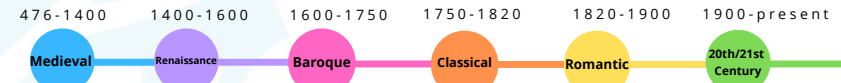
There is very little evidence from the times of the Vikings to suggest how their music would have sounded. However, human relationship with music throughout time and place, tells us that most likely, the Vikings would have used music to maintain the work of rowing and also for worship, celebration, social gatherings and to incite terror.

There is no written music dating back to the Vikings. Music would have been learnt and passed from generation to generation by an aural tradition, (by listening). Because of this, music would have been altered over time.

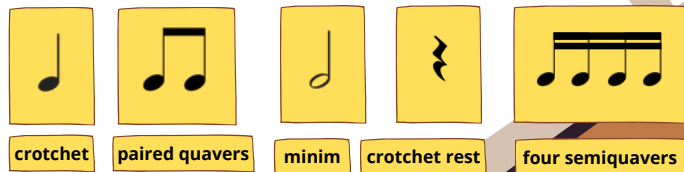
Vikings were also famous for travel and although they didn't leave behind buildings like the pyramids of Egypt, they did leave the legacy of the longboat. Travel would have broadened their knowledge and understanding of the wider world, including their culture. Viking music would have, over time, been infused with sounds from Arabia, Spain, Russia, England and eventually America.

Listening Pieces

- Who Will Buy? Lionel Bart, 1960
- Ride of the Valkyrie, Richard Wagner, 1856



Musical Knowledge



Key Vocabulary

- improvisation**: something that is created spontaneously or without preparation
- inter-related dimensions**: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure
- melody**: the tune of the music made up of high and low pitches
- motif**: a short musical idea that occurs often in a piece of music
- polyphonic**: layering two or more melodies
- polyrhythm**: two or more rhythms played at the same time
- polyrhythmic**: two or more rhythms played at the same time
- rhythm**: patterns of sound consisting of shorter and longer notes
- romantic**: an era in the history of music from 1820-1900, music describes places, emotions or tells stories
- semiquavers**: a musical note that has half of the duration of a quaver. Four semiquavers played together equal one crotchet.
- structure**: how a piece is organised
- ternary**: a three part musical form consisting of an opening section, a following section and then a repetition of the first section (ABA)
- timbre**: the unique sound of an instrument or piece of music

