

Year 6 - Music - Ancient Greece #2



Music was essential to Greek life, as it was an important feature of religious festivals, marriage and funeral rites, and banquet gatherings. Our knowledge of ancient Greek music comes from actual fragments of musical scores and the remains of musical instruments.

Although it is difficult to find actual music from this time, lots of accounts were written on the practice of music. Even inscriptions provided information about the importance of professional musicians were.

Some monuments were erected in honour of accomplished musicians.

Also depictions of musicians and musical events in vase painting and sculpture provide valuable information about the kinds of instruments that were preferred and how they were actually played. Although the ancient Greeks were familiar with many kinds of instruments, three in particular were favoured for composition and performance.

Task - Watch video clips of the 3 Ancient Greek instruments. (Links below or alternatively you can find them on the school You Tube channel Y.P Nation in playlists)

1- The kithara, a plucked string instrument;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1-2nHM-uyO&list=PLXe5LXT2ulkAz_Cw-vdmOcBSU8WFnNjJV&index=9

2- The lyre, also a string instrument;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3tCdilPj8&list=PLXe5LXT2ulkAz_Cw-vdmOcBSU8WFnNjJV&index=11

3- The aulos, a double-reed instrument.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VR2JcBGZ6bE&list=PLXe5LXT2ulkAz_Cw-vdmOcBSU8WFnNjJV&index=10

Listening Task -

- a) Describe the Timbre of these Greek instruments,
(Here are some top tips below to help you)

timbre

The particular tone that distinguishes a sound or combination of sounds.



- b) How they are played?
c) Which modern instruments do they sound like?
d) Which is your favourite and why?



Most Greek men trained to play an instrument competently, and to sing and perform choral dances. Instrumental music or the singing of a hymn regularly accompanied everyday activities and formal acts of worship. Shepherds piped to their flocks, oarsmen and infantry kept time to music, and women made music at home. The art of singing to one's own stringed accompaniment was highly developed. Greek philosophers saw a relationship between music and mathematics, envisioning music as a paradigm of harmonious order reflecting the cosmos and the human soul.