



Year 9 Music: POWER IN MUSIC

Key Information

Ritual music is found in many different musical cultures. A **ritual** is a ceremony consisting of set actions happening in a prescribed order – so music is a natural way to complement this with its ??? nature. Traditional ceremonial displays such as the Maori **Haka** use movement along with rhythmic chanting to demonstrate strength and power. Rite of Spring Classical.

Requiems demonstrate in **Classical music** the power of music in emotional communication. Composers manipulate the musical elements to ensure that every last bit of meaning is squeezed from the text.

African drumming uses many typical features of ritual music for celebratory (weddings, welcoming newcomers) as well as more negative (funerals, preparing for tribal warfare) reasons. It features repetition (**ostinato**), a strong/heavy beat, is often accompanied by shouting and singing, and **unison** sections to display togetherness.



| Keyword | Meaning |
|------------|---|
| Ostinato | A short repeating musical pattern |
| Unison | One single layer of music sounded together, 'as one' |
| Requiem | A large scale mass for the dead with multiple movements |
| Pedal note | A long, held, unchanging note usually in the bass |
| Djembe | A west African goblet-shaped drum |
| Polyrhythm | A texture of many different rhythms at the same time |

Stretch and Challenge: African drumming

Watch and practice along with this amazing Djembe tutorial <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfNsOZ2duPs> – if you don't have a drum at home use a bucket, a saucepan, anything! Concentrate especially on the notation in the top right-hand corner as he teaches: see if you can follow it!

Analysis

Rite of Spring

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi3WzKm5WV0>

Watch this final 10 minutes of the ballet we learned about, where the 'Chosen One' dances herself to death. As you watch, note down how power is brought to the music, and any ritual music elements.

| M | A | D | T | S | H | I | R | T |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| Melody | Articulation | Dynamics | Tempo | Structure | Harmony | Instruments | Rhythm | Texture |
| The main tune | How the music is played | The volume of the music | The speed of the music | The sections of the music and their order | The chords used | What instruments are used and the sound produced | The patterns of sounds with the beat | Layers of music – how many and what each does |

