



Year 8 Music: Reggae

Key Information

Reggae is a type of music that developed in **Jamaica** in the 1970s. It was influenced by a range of different styles including traditional Jamaican folk music (**Mento and Calypso**), **American RnB**, and dance music like **Ska** and **Rock Steady**.

Reggae became internationally popular thanks to **Bob Marley** (1945-1981) and his band The Wailers.



Keyword	Meaning
Off-beat	Piano and Guitar emphasise chords on beats 2 and 4 or on the second weaker quaver e.g., 1+2+. This called the chop .
Horn Stabs	Short interjecting melodies played by the 'horn section'.
Organ	LH plays off-beat quaver, whilst the RH plays chords.
Staccato	Notes are played short and detached.
Bass line	The bass line is prominent in the 'mix'.
Political lyrics	Reggae songs are often critical of politics and contain themes about social issues and struggles.
Rim shot	The drumstick hits the rim of the drum



Analysis

[Bob Marley - Exodus](#)
[\[HQ Sound\]](#) -
[YouTube](#)

Listen "Exodus" and identify the following:

- Horn stabs.
- Kick drum played on all 4 beats.
- Melodic riffs on guitar and piano.
- Organ off-beat chords.
- Rim-shots.
- Political lyrics.

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