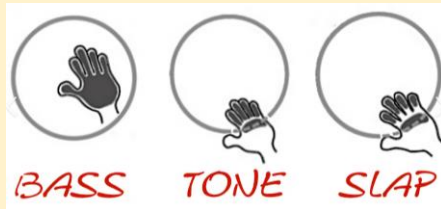




# Year 9 Music: African Drumming

## Key Information

**African drumming** (West Africa) features repetition (**ostinato**), a strong/heavy beat, **unison** sections to display togetherness, and is often accompanied by shouting and singing. The traditional instruments include djembe, dun dun, bells and shakers. The Djembe is played with bare hands. A **master drummer** leads the ensemble.



**Bass:** The hand strikes the centre of the drum, producing a deep tone.

**Tone:** Hit the top of the drum with the fingers together, producing a high-pitched tone.

**Slap:** Strike the edge of the drum with the fingers slightly parted, producing a short, loud tone.



Keyword	Meaning
Bass, Tone, Slap	Djembe strokes
Unison	One single layer of music sounded together, 'as one'
Rhythmic ostinato	A short repeating rhythmic pattern
Improvisation	When music (a rhythm) is made up on the spot
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=ifNs0Z2duPs> – 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

### Jalikunda

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZHfmg1b4m>

Can you identify the Master Drummer and the Djembe playing techniques?

How many different sections are there in the music?

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