

- hybrid** Of mixed origin; in music, it refers to a mixture of styles—as when country and rock influences combine to make country rock.
- hymn** A song in praise of God.
- hymnal** A collection of hymns.
- idiophone** A musical instrument made from a solid material that is struck or shaken or rubbed to produce sound.
- improvise** To create music, or make it up, while performing it.
- instrumentalist** One who plays an instrument.
- jazz** A style of music born in North America around 1900 in New Orleans; derived from a mixture of blues, ragtime, marching band music, and rural string band music; evolved into many varieties—including New Orleans jazz, Dixieland, swing, bebop, cool jazz, free jazz, and fusion.
- jazz-rock** Jazz-rock mixes jazz chord structures and arrangements with rock rhythms and instruments such as electric guitar, piano, bass, and drums.
- jug** A bottle used as a musical instrument to create sound by blowing across the top; aerophone.
- jukebox** A coin-operated record player or CD player most commonly found in public places.
- jump blues** A lively, up-tempo dance music punctuated with saxophones, trumpets, and rhythm instruments; popular in the 1930s and 1940s.
- klezmer music** Jewish dance music with origins in Eastern European traditions.
- Latin popular music** A form of popular music usually sung in Spanish, played with Latin rhythms. Popular Latin music wins music awards and sweeps mainstream radio, movies, and television.
- lead guitar** When the guitar is the featured instrument while the other instruments are the support, or backup. Lead guitarists play melody lines called *leads* or *solos*.
- light classics** Orchestral music that is familiar, popular, light in nature.
- light opera** A style of opera that is less “serious” than grand opera; fun, comic.
- line singing** When the singing is call-and-response style—one person or group leads by singing the first line of the song and another person or group follows by echoing.
- low pitch** A low-sounding musical tone; slower frequency of vibration.
- lullaby** Song sung to children; it’s usually gentle and lulling.
- lyrics** The text, or words, of a song.

- major scale** A pattern of eight pitches that when used to make up a song or piece of music is said to create a happy or serene mood. (see *scale*).
- mandolin** A small, wooden, stringed instrument usually shaped like a pear with eight steel strings (tuned as four pairs); related to the European lute; chordophone.
- mariachi music** Mexican country music accompanied by violins, guitars, harp, trumpets, and bass guitar (*guitarrón*).
- medley** A series of individual melodies or tunes strung together into one musical piece.
- melody** A sequence of musical tones, or pitches that create a meaningful whole; also called a *tune*.
- melody instrument** An instrument that plays melodies or tunes; examples are flutes, violins, pianos, horns, and mandolins.
- membranophone** A musical instrument such as a drum that creates sound through the vibrating of a stretched membrane over a frame or tube.
- microphone** A device that changes a regular sound wave into an electronic wave, allowing it to be amplified (made louder) or transported through wire (as with the telephone) or airwaves (as with the radio).
- minor scale** A pattern of eight pitches that when used to make up a song or piece of music is said to create a sad or somber mood (see *scale*).
- minstrel shows** An American performance style that mimicked the lifestyle, language, and dress of African-American slaves. Shows included songs, dances, jokes, and skits performed in a half-circle on a stage, with performers wearing blackface paint and playing banjo, fiddle, bones, and tambourine; most popular in the mid-1800s.
- minstrel song** An American style of song popular around the mid-1800s that was sung in the minstrel style, mimicking African-American lifestyle; accompanied with banjo, fiddle, bones, and tambourine.
- Motown music** A style of music created in the Detroit recording studio, Motown Records; incorporates elements of soul, funk, rhythm and blues.
- mountain dulcimer** See *dulcimer*.
- mountain music** Music that developed in the Appalachian Mountains (see *old-time music*).
- music notation** The written symbols of music.
- music publisher** A company that owns and manages the business of songs.
- musical score** The written notes of a musical composition for instruments and voices; the conductor reads the score and directs the performers to play or sing it.

**national anthem** The official song of a country.

**New Orleans jazz** An early style of jazz that emerged after the Civil War in and around New Orleans; lively and syncopated and played on brass instruments, banjo, guitar, piano, string bass, and drums.

**note-bending** When a singer or instrument "slurs" or "bends" the notes go up or down.

**old-time music** A style of American folk music that developed from European traditions; performed on guitar, dulcimer, banjo, piano, fiddle, and drum.

**opera** A musical story, or play, told through singing.

**oral tradition** Passing songs, stories, and legends by word of mouth, from person to person, generation to generation.

**orchestra** A group of musicians playing together. In the European classical tradition, the orchestra has string, wind, and percussion sections led by one conductor; in other traditions, an orchestra can be made up of any instruments.

**orchestral music** Music played by an orchestra.

**overture** The opening piece of a long work, such as the introduction to an opera.

**parody** A song, poem, or composition that imitates another song, poem, or composition in a humorous way.

**patriotic music** Music that expresses appreciation and love for a country.

**patriotic song** A song that expresses appreciation and love for a country.

**percussion instruments** Instruments that are beaten, shaken, or scraped to make a sound—including drums, gongs, sticks, shakers, xylophones, bells, rasps, cymbals, and triangles.

**phonograph record** A flat disc with grooves in which vibrations are recorded and converted into sound, played on a record player.

**piano** A keyboard instrument with white keys and black keys that, when pressed, make hammers strike strings to create sounds; idiophone and chordophone.

**pioneer songs** These described life on the frontier: Indian battles, the Gold Rush, working on the railroad, and stories of famous people or events.

**pitch** A musical tone.

**pitched instruments** Instruments that make high and low sounds (pitches), such as flutes, whistles, violins, harmonicas, and guitars.

**player piano** A piano that uses a mechanism to "read" the music from special holed paper, resulting in the depression of keys that play the song automatically.

- political songs** Songs that tell about political subjects—stories, people, or events.
- polka** A folk style of music and dance, played in a 2/4 meter, originally from Eastern Europe.
- polyrhythm** Two separate rhythms played at the same time.
- polyrhythmic** When a piece of music uses polyrhythm.
- popular music** Music that appeals to the masses, or mainstream.
- popular songs** Songs that appeal to the masses, or mainstream.
- powwow** A modern gathering of both native and non-native people to dance, sing, play drums, share native traditions, give gifts, and eat food. Contests are held for the best dances and costumes.
- Psalms** Songs or compositions that are based on text from the Christian Bible in the Book of Psalms.
- Psalters** A music book containing Psalms.
- quartet** A composition for four musicians; a group of four musicians.
- radio broadcasting** The act of converting sound to signals and sending them through the airwaves to a receiver, which changes the signals back into sounds.
- ragtime** An American dance music popular in the early 1900s; a lively, syncopated style of piano music.
- rallying songs** Songs that stir emotions—political rallying songs or sports rallying songs, for example.
- rap** Speaking in rhyme to the rhythm of the beat.
- rap music** In rap music the lyrics of songs are spoken instead of sung; often performed over recorded music.
- rasps** Instruments that are scraped to make a sound; idiophone.
- rattles** Instruments that make sound from objects beating against each other—like pebbles inside a container or shells strung together; idiophone.
- recitative** A style of singing that is like speech; tells a story.
- record charts** One of the ways the music industry observes the public's tastes in music (see *Billboard charts*). Record charts are divided into genres and reflect what is most enjoyed (and purchased) by the general public.
- record company** A business that records, sells, and promotes music.
- refrain** The part of a song that is repeated; the chorus.
- Regular Singing** A term from colonial times referring to the method of using written notation to sing and learn music, as opposed to the Usual Way, which is line singing or memorization.

- repertoire** A list of songs, musical works, roles, and so on, that a person or group knows and can perform.
- resonate** To increase the intensity of sound, to make louder.
- resonator** A device or container that serves to increase the intensity of sound.
- rhymes** Words that sound the same as another; they are used in the lyrics of a poem or song.
- rhyming song** A song that rhymes.
- rhythm** The meter, the beat, the part that moves forward in time in music.
- rhythm accompaniment** Rhythm instruments that accompany the music.
- rhythm and blues** Blues music that adds electric guitars, saxophones, drums, and electric bass with up-tempo rhythms. Rhythm and blues was the foundation for rock 'n' roll, and eventually, rap music.
- rhythm instrument** Instruments that play the rhythm rather than the melody, including drums, percussion, bass guitar, rhythm guitar, and so on.
- rock 'n' roll** A musical genre that grew from rhythm and blues in the early 1950s; created by African Americans but originally made popular by European-American performers.
- roots music** Music that originates from the experiences of ordinary people; includes folk songs, country songs, blues, gospel, Cajun, zydeco, Tejano, klezmer, old-time, bluegrass, and some Native American music.
- sacred** Of a spiritual nature.
- Sacred Harp singing** Singing in the Sacred Harp tradition involves reading shape notes and singing harmony; it was created by early European-American colonists.
- sacred songs** Songs that are spiritual in nature; like a prayer; can be requests for guidance, calls for help, expressions of worship, or ways to show thanks.
- salsa** A lively, rhythmical dance music that mixes the traditions of Spanish, Caribbean, and African cultures. *Salsa* means "sauce" in Spanish, and salsa music is a spicy dance music that became popular in New York in the 1960s.
- sample** A digital recording of a sound that is processed and assigned to a note on the keyboard.
- sampler** A computer microprocessor that records, or takes a sample of, a live sound that can be played back on a keyboard (see *digital sampler*).
- scale** Scales are patterns of notes (or pitches) that are used to make up a song or piece of music. A *major scale* is a pattern of eight notes often said to create a happy mood when it is used. A *minor scale* is a different pattern of eight notes often said to create a sad mood when it is played. A *chromatic scale* is