

scale cont.

A *chromatic scale* is another kind of pattern that uses twelve notes and creates an unusual mood because it is not used very often. When composers create a piece of music, they choose a scale (or key), then pick notes from that scale and put them together in different ways to make up the piece. It is like taking the letters of the alphabet and stringing them together in different ways to make up words and sentences.

scat singing Singing syllables (or vocables) as opposed to lyrics.

scratching In rap music this means stopping, starting, playing forwards and backwards, or otherwise manipulating a record on a turntable to create music or sounds.

sea chanteys Work chants and other songs sung by sailors at sea.

sections Divisions of the orchestra, usually percussion, strings, woodwinds, and brass.

secular songs Nonreligious songs.

sentimental songs These express sentiments, or feelings; they can describe love, beauty, emotions, and more.

shaker rattles Containers with small objects bouncing inside them, such as seeds inside a gourd, pebbles inside a leather container, and so on; idio-
phone.

shape-note singing A style of singing that developed in colonial times that uses written music in the form of shapes to distinguish different pitches. In the early days of shape-note singing, all singers sang in unison (together on the same pitches), but over time they developed harmony singing (singing on different pitches at the same time). Shape-note singing is the foundation for modern harmony singing.

sheet music Written or published music, both lyrics and notation, sold by music publishers.

signal songs Songs used by slaves that used code to tell of plans for escaping.

singers People who use their voices to make musical tones.

singing Using the voice to make musical tones.

slack key A style of Hawaiian guitar playing that involves finger-picking and loosened strings to create a soothing, soulful music that has come to represent Hawaiian music.

social songs Native American songs performed in public for dances, thanksgiving, memorials, and celebrations.

solo A piece of music performed by one singer or instrumentalist.

song A piece of vocal music that uses a combination of words (or vocables) with a melody.

- soul music** An American musical style derived from African-American blues and gospel.
- spirituals** Sacred songs that originated in the African-American slave culture.
- state song** The official song of a state.
- steady beat** The regular, consistent, steady ticking away of beats.
- steel guitar** A stringed instrument made of wood or metal and held on the lap. It is played by gliding a bar on top of the strings with one hand and plucking with the other; chordophone and sometimes electrophone.
- string bow** A wooden rod strung with gut used in playing a stringed instrument; shaped like a bow.
- string quartet** A composition for four stringed instruments; in classical music a string quartet includes two violins, a viola, and a cello.
- strings** Stringed instruments; also, long thin strands of sinew, steel, or nylon material used for plucking or bowing to make sound.
- strumming** The act of brushing something against strings in order to make a sound; guitar players strum with picks or their fingers; dulcimer players strum with feather quills.
- swing music** A style of jazz from the early 1930s that used syncopated music and large groups of musicians called *big bands*.
- symphonic poem** A long movement for orchestra that tells a story or describes a scene through the music rather than lyrics.
- symphony** A long composition written for an orchestra.
- syncopated** When the rhythm accents the upbeat (the second and fourth beats in 4/4 meter).
- synthesized sound** A sound created by electronic impulses.
- synthesizer** A device that creates sounds using electronic elements; electrophone.
- Tejano-conjunto music** Folk music that mixes influences from Spanish, Native American, and Czech traditions; popular in Northern Mexico and Texas.
- tempo** The speed of the music; it may be fast or slow.
- throat singing** A traditional singing style of the Inuit (Eskimo) of Canada, usually performed by two women standing close to each other, face-to-face, breathing in and out, and repeating low sounds in a fast, pulsing rhythm. It is often a game that ends when the first person laughs.
- thumb piano** An instrument made of wood with metal tongs that are plucked to make sounds. The tongs are different lengths and make different pitches when plucked; idiophone.

- Tin Pan Alley** This term has come to represent the popular music publishing industry that came to prominence around the turn of the century (1900); the name comes from a street in New York City where the publishers worked.
- traditional** Having the quality of being passed down; an established custom.
- traditional songs** Songs that are passed down through the generations.
- traditions** Customs or practices that are passed down through the generations.
- turntable** A device that spins records for playing; electrophone.
- turntablism** In rap music this is the art of spinning records to create a musical piece on its own.
- twelve-bar blues** A pattern of chord changes that is repeated every twelve measures (bars); the foundation of many blues songs.
- ukulele** A guitar-shaped instrument, much smaller than a guitar, with four strings and a higher pitch; chordophone.
- unison** When people sing or play the same notes together at the same time.
- upbeat** Lively, fast; also the "weak" beat—for example, in a 4/4 meter, the second and fourth are the upbeats.
- Usual Way** A term from colonial times that indicated learning music by singing it line by line, or by memorization, as opposed to reading and writing it.
- vaudeville** A type of variety show popular from the late 1800s to the 1930s. It featured stage acts ranging from singers to actors, dancers, comedians, magicians, puppeteers, acrobats, mimes, clowns, and so on.
- verse** The words of a song that tell the story and are generally not repeated. In ballads, the first verse begins telling the story, the second verse continues it, and so on until the last verse tells the conclusion.
- vibrate** To shake really fast.
- virtuosic** Having the quality of being performed by a virtuoso.
- virtuoso** A person with outstanding talent.
- vocables** Syllables that may not have apparent meaning; scat singing uses vocables.
- volume** In music, the volume is the loudness of sound; high volume is loud, low volume is soft.
- washboard** A wooden board with ridges that is used for scrubbing clothes; also used as a rhythm instrument that is scraped along the ridges; idiophone.
- washtub bass** An instrument made from a washtub, long pole, and string, configured to create a homemade standup bass for playing in jug bands; chordophone.

- water drum** A drum that uses a container filled with water to enhance the sound; membranophone and idiophone.
- whistle** An instrument without holes that is blown to make sound; aerophone.
- wind bands** Musical groups whose players consist of wind instrument players.
- wind instruments** Instruments that are blown to make sound.
- woodwinds** Instruments that are blown through a mouth hole or reed; they include the piccolo, flute, clarinet, oboe, and bassoon.
- work songs** In this book, work songs refer to the songs sung in the fields by slaves, but the term may refer to any song sung while working.
- xylophone** An instrument made of a series of wood or metal bars of different lengths that are beaten with mallets to make sounds; idiophone.
- yodel** A singing style that involves abrupt changes between falsetto and chest singing.
- zydeco music** A style of music that evolved in Louisiana from French and African (Creole) traditions; uses syncopated rhythms and upbeat tempos.