



Choir Virtual Learning

Women's Choir/Choral Music Genres

May 21, 2020



Lesson: May 21, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: Students will be introduced to different genres of choral music.

Bell Work:

Define the following terms using this link. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/>

1. Genre
2. Sacred
3. Secular
4. Folk Music
5. Novelty



What is a Genre?

A genre is defined as a category of artistic, musical, or literary composition characterized by a particular style, form, or content. As choral musicians, we are required to perform a variety of music from different genres. Here are a few variables that impact a genre of music.

- Religion
- Culture
- Geographic location
- Nationalism or a pride in country
- Human nature such as love, humor, death, life, friendship, etc.



Sacred Music

The earliest genre of choral music is sacred music. This is music written and performed solely for religious purposes. Choirs of men and boys during Medieval times would gather to provide music for church services. This tradition continued through the Renaissance and Baroque eras as new music was written each week for choirs to sing for services. The sacred choral tradition was passed down through each musical era and is still in existence today. Choral anthems continue to be written for choirs to sing, and choirs also continue to perform music of the early church. Early sacred music was predominantly a cappella. More modern sacred music has a tendency to be accompanied.



Sacred Music Examples

Here are a few examples from various time periods. Listen to a minute or so of each piece to get a feel for each era of music.

Renaissance-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itBNN7OBQcQ>

Classical-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xK-IHpN1HBs>

Present Day Spiritual- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46K7DjT_LUI



Secular Music

Secular music is about any topic related to the world that is NOT religious in nature. Secular music was born in the Renaissance era, has been passed down through generations and is still in existence today. The earliest form of secular music is known as a Madrigal. Secular music has taken many different forms as it has been passed down due to lots of other secular genres that have blossomed, as well as advances in instruments and technology. Secular music has been written as a way to cope and relate to the happenings of everyday life as well as for entertainment purposes.



secular

Secular Music Examples

Here are a few examples from various time periods. Listen to a minute or so of each piece to get a feel for each era of music.

Renaissance- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cilvhB-zTfc>

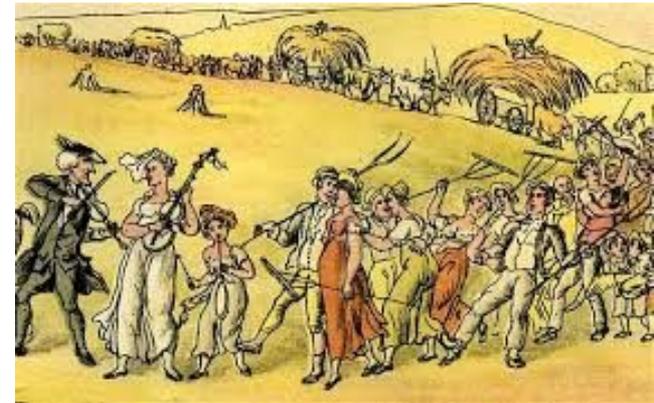
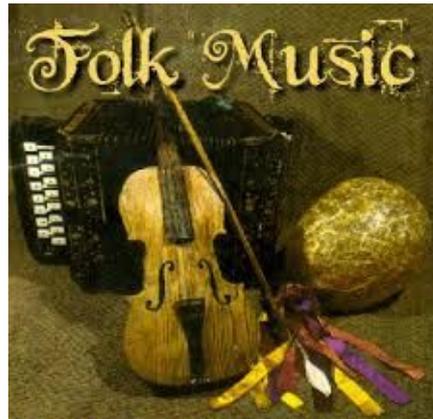
Baroque- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBC-45-FfVQ>

20th Century- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxuAE2AY2Iq>



Folk Music

Folk music is defined as the traditional music of the people in a country or region. Every country has music that is reflective of their culture and the kinds of instruments they can access. Most music is written about significant historical figures, meaningful geographic locations in the region, historical events, and different aspects of human life. Additionally, this type of music will be a cappella or accompanied by acoustic instruments.



Folk Music Examples

Here are a few examples from various locations. Listen to a minute or so of each piece to get a feel for the music.

China- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbxXGI-jQmk>

Ireland- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iRf1ezYjA>

America- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8yBPMrlz9w>



Multicultural/World Music

This music can be characterized as music from different cultures or from around the world. Like folk music, this genre is influenced by the harmonies, melodies and instruments of that location. Here are a few examples of multicultural/world music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCa8RxaOPW8>

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVShZWwlrU4>



Novelty Music

Novelty music can be defined as music that provides fleeting amusement and is often based on a theme. Novelty numbers are highly entertaining and usually put a lighter spin on something more serious. These numbers can be accompanied or a cappella, and use a variety of instruments for dramatic effect. Here are a few examples of novelty numbers.

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIsP6zZqjT8&list=RDsrc0A2G_Tv4&index=24

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zark3l3ErJc&list=RDzark3l3ErJc&start_radio=1&t=51



Lesson Recap

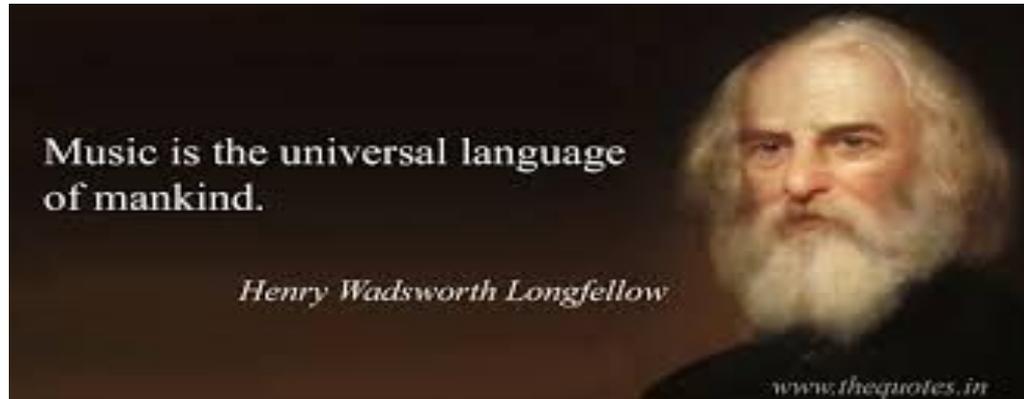
As you can see, there are many genres of music that you can encounter as a choral singer. Directors try to give you a variety of music to sing that represents the different genres of music we have discussed today. Do you remember the qualities of each one of the genres? Try to define these genres again using what you've learned today.

1. Sacred
2. Secular
3. Folk
4. Multicultural/World
5. Novelty



Extra Practice

Think back over the course of your high school vocal music career. What genres would you put your music in and why?



Thank You!

