

# Scottish Music

## Accordion

An instrument with a keyboard played with the right hand and buttons (which play chords) pressed by the left hand. The player pushes and pulls the two sides to operate the bellows.



## Fiddle

Another name for the violin, used in Scottish folk music.



## Clarsach

A small Scottish harp.

Played as a solo or in a folk group or to accompany singing



## Bodhran

A Celtic wooden drum held in one hand and played with a wooden beater



## Bagpipes

A musical instrument having a flexible bag inflated either by a tube with valves or by bellows, a double-reed melody pipe, and from one to four drone pipes.



## Pibroch

- The Classical form of the highland bagpipe in theme and variation form..
- The main melody is repeated several times, decorated with grace notes



# March

- Music with a strong, steady pulse that is suitable to march to
- 2 or 4 beats in a bar
- In Simple time
- A march is often heard in a set with a strathspey and reel

# Strathspey

- 4 beats in the bar
- Moderate tempo
- SIMPLE time
- Features DOTTED RHYTHMS and SCOTS SNAPS
- Dance sounds quite 'jerky' because of the rhythm
- Often has TRIPLETS at the end of the phrase.
- Often followed by a reel

## Scotch Snap



A very short accented note before a longer note.

# Reel

- 4 beats in the bar
- Fast tempo
- Simple time – think 'Je-nny, Je-nny'
- Smooth rhythms – quavers and semiquavers
- Each beat is equally divided into groups of 2 or 4
- Often follows a Strathspey

## Waltz

- 3 beats in the bar
- SIMPLE time
- Fairly slow tempo but can have a 1 in a bar feel if it is a faster waltz

## Jig

- Fast tempo
- COMPOUND time – each beat divided into groups of 3 or 6 – think '*Je-nni’fer, Je-nni-fer*'
- *Usually in 6/8 time, though can be written in 9/8 or 12/8*

## Vamp

- A rhythmic accompaniment with a bass note on the beat and a chord off the beat. Usually played on piano.
- Sounds like an 'oom cha'



## Scottish Dance Band

- 3 beats in the bar
- SIMPLE time
- Fairly slow tempo but can have a 1 in a bar feel if it is a faster waltz

## Folk Group

- A group of singers and instrumentalists who perform traditional music from a particular country, e.g. Scotland.
- Can include any folk instruments – e.g. bodhran, tin whistle, clarsach, guitar, singers etc.

## Celtic Rock

- A style that mixes Celtic folk music and rock
- Typical rock instruments such as electric guitar, bass guitar and drums are combined with acoustic Scottish folk instruments

# Pentatonic Scale

five note scale e.g. the black notes on a keyboard. A lot of folk music, including Scottish music, uses the PENTATONIC SCALE



## Bothy Ballad

- Unaccompanied folk song from North East Scotland
- Sung by MEN
- Many repeating verses – STROPHIC
- Male labourers housed in bothies on the farm sang bothy ballads.
- Songs were about their living conditions, their work, boos, food served to them etc.

### STROPHIC

Each verse of a vocal piece  
has the same music

## Scots Ballad

- A Scottish folksong which tells a story
- Sung by MEN and WOMEN
- Many repeating verses – STROPHIC
- Sometimes A CAPPELLA and sometimes with instruments

## Mouth Music

- Unaccompanied songs with Gaelic or nonsense words
- Usually fast tempo, sung for ceilidh dances

## Waulking Song

- A Gaelic work song with strong rhythmical rhythm
- Sung by WOMEN to keep the timing of the banging of the tweede on the table
- Call and response style – line sung by soloist and the rest of the women join in with the refrain – often ‘hi-ri-I, ho ro hu o’

## Gaelic Psalm

- Religious
- Slow, A CAPPELLA church tunes
- The solo leader, known as the Precentor sings the first line and congregation join in after him.