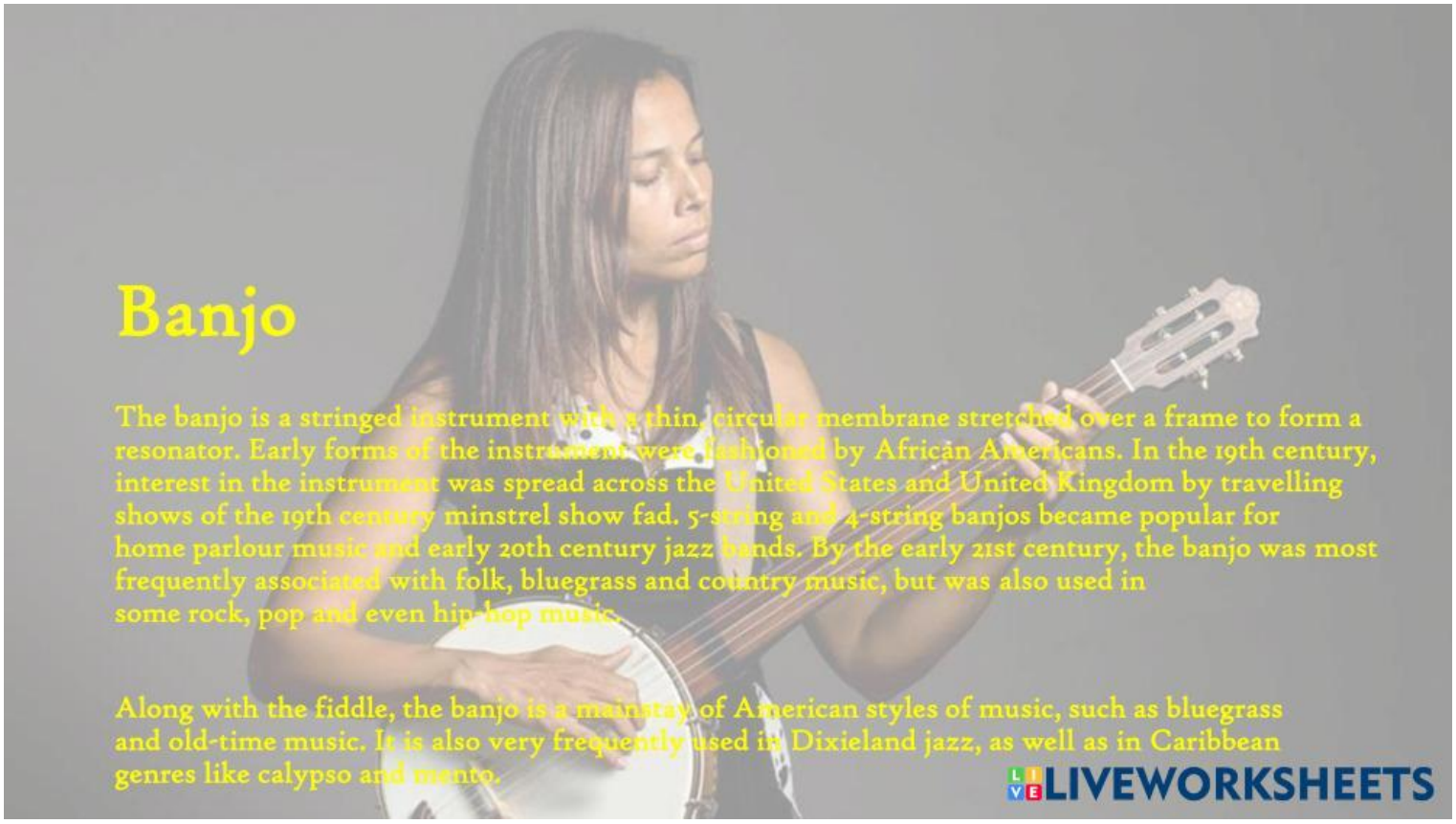


Banjo

The banjo is a stringed instrument with a thin, circular membrane stretched over a frame to form a resonator. Early forms of the instrument were fashioned by African Americans. In the 19th century, interest in the instrument was spread across the United States and United Kingdom by travelling shows of the 19th century minstrel show fad. 5-string and 4-string banjos became popular for home parlour music and early 20th century jazz bands. By the early 21st century, the banjo was most frequently associated with folk, bluegrass and country music, but was also used in some rock, pop and even hip-hop music.

Along with the fiddle, the banjo is a mainstay of American styles of music, such as bluegrass and old-time music. It is also very frequently used in Dixieland jazz, as well as in Caribbean genres like calypso and mento.

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Concertina

A concertina is a free-reed musical instrument, like the various accordions and the harmonica. It consists of expanding and contracting bellows, with buttons (or keys) usually on both ends, unlike accordion buttons, which are on the front.



The concertina was developed independently in both England and Germany. The English version was invented in 1829 by Sir Charles Wheatstone, while Carl Friedrich Uhlig introduced the German version five years later, in 1834. Various forms of concertina are used for classical music, for the traditional music of Ireland, England, and South Africa, and for tango and polka music.

The concertina has historically been a favourite instrument among people who travel often (due to its small and compact size), leading it to be a common instrument among soldiers, sailors, and cowboys.

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Clasarch

The clarsach (Scottish Gaelic *clàrsach*) is Scotland's oldest national instrument, having been played throughout the land from very earliest times. Long before the arrival of the bagpipe, it was the mainstay of Gaelic courtly music.

The earliest depictions of the instrument can be found on Pictish stones, dating back to the 8th century. It came in two different forms: the earlier Pictish harp, strung with gut or horsehair; and the Gaelic *clàrsach*, strung with wire.

The clarsach was the primary instrument of the Gaelic courts until the introduction of the bagpipe in the 15th century and remained central to Gaelic courtly music until the mid-18th century. It also played a key role in the music of the early Celtic church.



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