



Africa is vast continent with many different regions and nations, each with its own traditions and identity. Much African Music is **TRADITIONAL** and has been handed down from father to son – **THE ORAL TRADITION** – where music is passed on verbally and being 'learned' rather than written down.

African Music is rarely performed as a "classical concert", rather, everyone joins in by singing, dancing, playing an instrument or clapping. African music unites people regardless of ability and is a part of everyday life. Music is important to Africans especially at Social Gatherings as well as being a way of communicating emotions and feelings. African music is often combined with other art forms such as movement, dance, mime, speech, storytelling and costumes such as masks or body painting. Music is used on a number of occasions such as birthdays, weddings, funerals, and harvest. Performances of African music are normally long and can last for several hours. Shouting and cheering from the audience are an integral part of the performance.



African music has been a major influence on the development of popular music contributing rhythms, structures, melodic features, and the use of improvisation to such styles as blues, gospel, and jazz, brought over to America by slaves.

The names of some famous performers and groups of African Drumming include:

BOLOKADA CONDE – a master drummer from Kissidougou, Guinea and one of the world's most foremost Djembe players. He has travelled and performed in major venues all over the world since 1996 and conducts percussion workshops including an instructional DVD for playing the Djembe.

PIT STOP



How important is the interplay between the leader and players within an African Drumming Ensemble?

Describe a typical rhythmic **TEXTURE** within African Drumming.

What is the name of a short repeated rhythmic pattern used in African Drumming?

What is the **ORAL TRADITION**?

Give some examples of everyday activities in African life that are traditionally accompanied by music or drumming.

Name **ONE** famous performer of African Drumming.

African Drumming – Further Listening



