

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.