

Preliminary Task 4: Cultural Aspects of Music

Before Session 4, you are asked to think about the following questions. These will be discussed in the session.

1. As with all art forms, our reception of a piece of music is conditioned by its genre. What do you expect (in terms of instrumentation, rhythm, musical structure, etc) of a piece that is categorized as:

a march a waltz a madrigal a symphony blues hiphop

2. Music may also be associated in our minds with particular setting. What kind of music (in terms of instrumentation, rhythm, musical structure etc) is associated with the following contexts:

church a sophisticated late-night bar military contexts
folk settings (e.g. Spain, Scotland, Africa, E. Europe, the Middle East)

3. Another cultural dimension of meaning is added when a musical piece is appropriated for some other purpose (e.g. as a soundtrack to a film, advertisement, television programme etc). Can you think of any examples of this?