

AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MUSIC –MAIN FEATURES

Melody	Simple melodies, often repetitive. Glissando/slides and melisma are often used.
Rhythm	Syncopated, repeated ideas Often Polyrhythmic Repetitive rhythms which change slowly.
Instrumentation	Often Unaccompanied Vocal music Drums, particularly Djembe
Texture	A Cappella Call and Response Unison often heard
Harmony	Vocal harmonies often in 3rds or 6ths

THE BLUES—MAIN FEATURES

Melody	Simple melodies, often repetitive. Glissando, Pitch bends and melisma are often used. Uses the blues scale and 'blue' notes. Improvisation used frequently.
Rhythm	Syncopated 'Swung' rhythms
Instrumentation	Vocals, Early blues features acoustic instruments such as acoustic guitar, double bass , mouth organ etc Later blues features vocals, electric guitars, bass guitar, drums etc
Texture	Call and response frequently used Where vocals or instrumental solos occur often melody and accompaniment / homophonic
Harmony	Mainly uses primary chords (12 bar blues only requires 3 chords, chord I, IV and V / chords 1,4,5)
Structure / Form	Often uses 12 bar blues structure Call and response

ROCK MUSIC –MAIN FEATURES

Melody	Simple vocal melodies, often repetitive. Riffs in electric guitar, bass guitar or keyboards are very common.
Rhythm	Often driving rhythms, rhythms can be syncopated or on the beat
Instrumentation	Electric guitars (lead and rhythm often), bass guitar, drum kit, vocals, sometimes keyboard instrument of some sort. Male vocalists often use falsetto. Guitars often use effects such as distortion
Harmony	Vocal harmonies often in 3rds or 6ths Mainly uses primary chords
Metre	Usually in $\frac{4}{4}$
Texture	Can often use 12 bar blues structure or song form

CONTEMPORARY LATIN MUSIC–MAIN FEATURES

Tango:	Usually slow and syncopated melodies often using triplets. Instrumentation may include flute, violin, guitar, accordion double bass and percussion. Tends to have simple harmonies and be in a minor key (tonality). Repeated dotted rhythms in the bass often move between tonic and dominant notes (i.e. in C major it would go C, C G C or similar)
Latin Ballads:	Slow and sentimental songs that are popular in Latin America. They feature a solo singer often accompanied by the guitar, a pop band or by a full-scale orchestra. The ballades take influences from the bolero (a slow, syncopated Cuban or Spanish Dance). Synthesizers and drum machines are used to modernise the sound. The harmony is simple – often using primary chords
Reggaeton is similar to Hip-hop	Urban style of music similar to hip-hop / rap. It's Cuban Dance music, a blend of Jamaican reggae and dub (DJ rapping over bass and drums). It is syncopated and suited for dancing with a fast tempo. It uses lots of effects like delay and reverb to make its modern sound.

FUSION MUSIC INCORPORATING AFRICAN /CARRIBEAN MUSIC

Melody	Simple vocal melodies, often repetitive. Riffs in electric guitar, bass guitar or keyboards are very common.
Structure	Verse-chorus/song form structure as well as call and response is common.
Rhythm	Tresillo (also called 3,3,2 or Calypso) rhythms often used. Syncopation, use of polyrhythms is common. In Reggae the chords are played off the beat and the tempo tends to be slow/laid back. Ska is like Reggae with the off-beat but tends to be fast.
Instrumentation	Steel drums, Guiro (scraped ridged percussion instrument) Vocals often sing funny lyrics, bongos, maracas, claves (wooden sticks) and different types of guitar. Salsa uses instruments of big band Jazz i.e. saxophone, bass guitars, drum kit, brass, clarinet etc
Harmony	Vocal harmonies often in 3rds or 6ths Mainly uses primary chords
Metre	Usually in 2/4 or 4/4
Texture	Call and Response is very common, often Melody and Accompaniment

CONTEMPORARY FOLK OF THE BRITISH ISLES

Melody	Simple vocal melodies, often repetitive and based on Pentatonic scales. Ornamentation and acciaccaturas are used to decorate the melody.
Structure	Tends to be simple (often in Strophic form which is just Verse, Verse Verse or perhaps Verse Chorus form/song form)
Rhythm	Phrases often start with an anacrusis (shortened upbeat bar). Dotted / syncopated rhythms often heard. Repeated rhythmic patterns and riffs are a feature of folk.
Instrumentation	Pipe and tabor, fiddle (violin), accordion, bagpipes. Traditional Celtic instruments also include the bodhran (Irish Drum) Banjo heard in folk fusion styles such as those by Mumford and Son.
Harmony	Vocal harmonies often in 3rds or 6ths Mainly uses primary chords
Metre	Can be in 6/8 or have changing time signatures
Texture	Generally melody and accompaniment