



Mr Peter Siepmann (pas)

<http://www.petersiepmann.net/teaching>

Please sit in alphabetical order by surname.

Please keep all your notes, worksheets, etc.
well organised in a ring binder

Remember we are here to learn so...

- Behave accordingly, with respect
- Please ask questions in class or via email (pas)
- If you are interested in doing GCSE, do talk to me or any of the music staff



Music in Sub-Saharan Africa

Listen to [this](#).

over 50 nations

What features of the music do you notice?



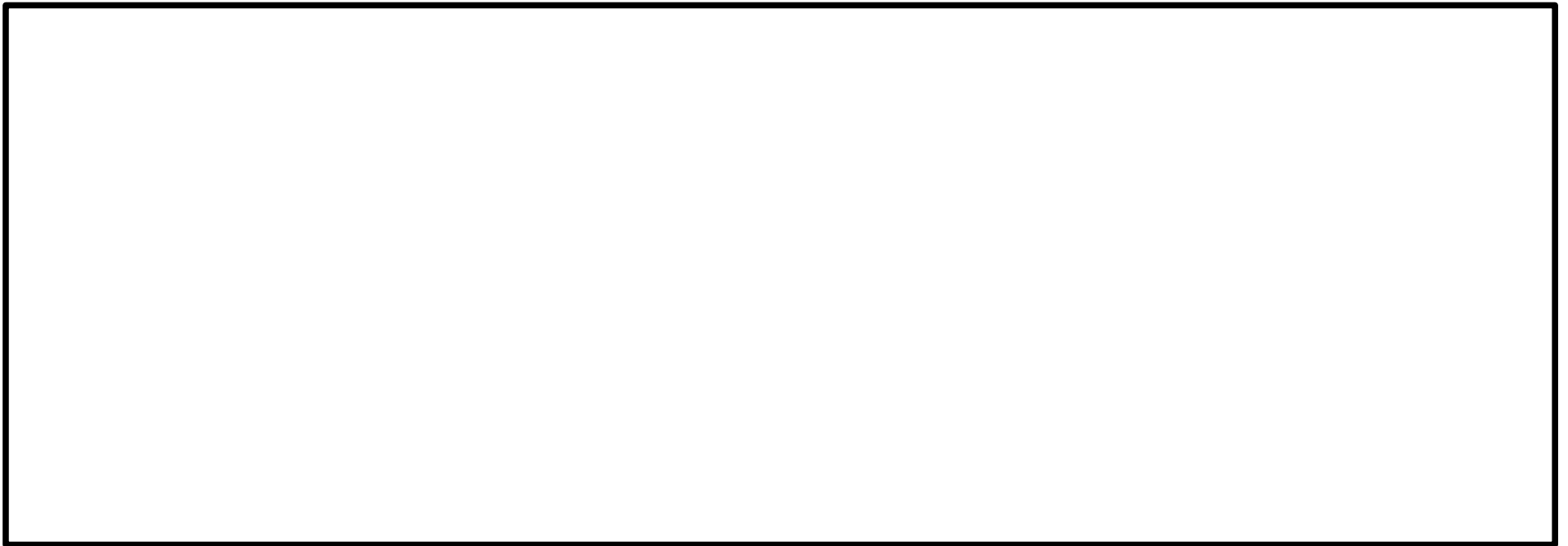
What is music used for in Africa?





Topic 3 **African Drumming**

- Many different types of music – often related to dances.
- Listen to [this](#) and then to [this](#). What differences do you notice between the two pieces?



- One of Africa's most famous drums is the so-called 'talking drum'. Watch [this clip](#) (Rasaki Aladokun).



Topic 3 **African Drumming**

Keywords to learn:

Agbadza

Djembe

Atenteben

Donno

Ostinato

Polyrhythm

If you are interested in more types of African music (of which there are many!),
[this website](#) has quite a good summary.



Topic 3 **African Drumming**

Performance

Watch/listen to [this](#) clip again.

- Do the performers read from a score?
- Is there a conductor?
- How is the start of the piece signalled to the rest of the players?

Features of the music

- Does each player have the same material (technical term?) or different material (technical term)?
- Call/response, ostinato
- Does the dynamic, tempo, texture remain constant throughout?



Topic 3 African Drumming

- Three part example:

Pulse	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Group A		X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X
Group B	X			X			X			X		
Group C	X		X	X			X		X	X	X	X

What makes a good pattern?

More talking drums (as well as gongon and bembe) [here](#).



Topic 3 African Drumming

- What are **Agbadza** **Djembe** **Atenteben** **Donno**

Ostinato

Polyrhythm

- Exercise:

Pulse	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Group A		X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X
Group B	X			X			X			X		
Group C	X		X	X			X		X	X	X	X

What makes a good pattern?



Topic 3 **African Drumming**

Project

In groups, write your own *four part* drum chant.

- 1 Decide on an occasion for which to write your chant. It could be a war dance, a funeral chant, a wedding celebration, etc., etc.. Make sure your chant reflects the mood of the occasion for which you are composing it.
- 2 You may work out your chant by improvisation and memory to start with. Make sure it includes all the points discussed in class to make it a good and effective chant.
- 3 By the end of the lesson, you must have written your chant down. You may notate it in any way you like, but make sure everyone in your group can read it!

Compose, practise and perform the chant in class.



Topic 3 **African Drumming**

The Djembe drum

A djembe (pronounced JEM-bay) is a skin covered hand drum, shaped like a large goblet, and meant to be played with bare hands. According to the Bamana people in Mali, the name of the djembe comes directly from the saying "Anke dje, anke be" which literally translates to "everyone gather together", and defines the drum's purpose.

The djembe can produce three distinct types of note – the "bass", "tone" and "slap", though a variety of other tones can be produced by advanced players. The slap has a high, sharp sound and the tone is more "round" and full. The bass is the lowest.



Topic 3 **African Drumming**

The Djembe drum – producing the three tones

The key is to either focus or disperse the hand's energy, and position the hand in the correct place.

The bass and tone notes require focused energy (hold your fingers firmly together). The slap requires dispersed energy (fingers are relaxed). Striking the skin with the palm and fingers toward the drum's centre produces a bass note; striking the skin near the rim produces the tone and slap.

Bass In the centre, fingers together plus palm

Tone Near the rim, fingers together

Slap Near the rim, fingers apart

Watch [this](#).

Your turn!



Topic 3 **African Drumming**

Remember the Djembe drum?

How many different tones can be produced? How are they produced?

Extend your group's chant for the Djembe drum

- Each part now has a choice of three different tones
- Add this to your notation (high, medium, low)



Topic 3

African Drumming

Each group will by now have a chant for 3-5 djembe drums.

Each group should input their chant into Sibelius (template can be found at XXX). Save your chant in YYY.

One group at a time will practise their chant on the Djembe drums in the Recital Room.

Recorded performance of each group.



Topic 3
African Drumming

Listen to recordings (<http://www.petersiepmann.net/teaching>)

Well done!



Watch/listen to this:

Drumming *by* Steve Reich (1971)

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=BZtR4BduVAA>

- The entire piece is structured around a single repeated rhythm, one bar (in 12/8) long.
- This rhythm is slowly built up note by note, gradually replacing rests with beats.
- After the rhythm is completely built up, two of the players phase to where they are playing the same pattern one quarter-note apart from each other, and the other bongo players play resulting patterns that can be heard as a result of the combination of the phased patterns.

What type of music is this?

Who is Steve Reich?

What do you think influenced Reich to write this piece?

Watch/listen to this: *David Fanshawe – African Sanctus: A Documentary*