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

Upper Fifth Listening

*Fusions*





## Upper Fifth Listening: Fusions

### What is fusion?

- Blending musical styles from different cultures together
- e.g. Bhangra = popular Western music + traditional Indian music
- e.g. Salsa = South American music + Jazz
- e.g. Western music + African music

*Let's look first at how traditional Indian music is combined with Western pop...*



Upper Fifth Listening: Fusions

## Indian Fusions

Indian music is used by some western bands:

### Who?

**Kula Shaker**      [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SyVaLpa\\_vc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SyVaLpa_vc)

*Psychedelic rock band who came to prominence during the Britpop era. Some of their songs are actually written in Sanskrit (ancient Hindu) and feature instruments like the sitar and the tambura inter-fused with rock guitar.*

**Cornershop**      <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQIzVbJwIVo>

*British indie band from Leicester. The band name originated from a stereotype referring to British Asians that they often own street corner stores. Their music is a fusion of Indian music, British indie rock, and electronic dance.*

*and even*

**The Beatles**      Remember this? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erLZ-zW9Ti4>

*George Harrison in particular was very interested in Indian music and philosophy.*

*Listen to 'Within you, without you' from Sgt Pepper: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3OXDwmlEZE>*



## Upper Fifth Listening: Fusions

### Indian Fusions

Indian music is used by some western bands:

#### How?

- Using Indian instruments (*how many of these can you remember?*)
- Using tunes based on raga scales (rags) (*how are these different from Western scales?*)
- Using Indian rhythmic patterns (*what are these called? how are they constructed?*)





## Upper Fifth Listening: Fusions

### Bhangra

#### TRADITIONAL BHANGRA

- Originally, the term *bhangra* referred to traditional harvest music from the Punjab (an area of North India/Pakistan)
- The key instrument is the **dhol** – a double-headed, barrel-shaped drum:
  - each side of the drum has a different tone (one much lower (GE) than the other (NA))
- The main rhythmic pattern is called the **chaal**:

dha na na na na dha dha na



- Other features include prominent use of the **minor third** and **repeated notes**.
- Example: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0RUxVO2pa2U>



## Upper Fifth Listening: Fusions

### Bhangra

#### MODERN BHANGRA

- In the 1970-80s, Asian musicians fused the **chaal** rhythm with Western styles like hip-hop, disco, drum 'n' bass, rap and reggae, and using Western instruments
- This style is still very popular in the Asian community today.
- Examples: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ha-uSc7eE7k>  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Moio5q\\_1b8o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Moio5q_1b8o)

- Common musical features of modern bhangra:

#### Indian bhangra

Chaal rhythm  
Punjabi language  
Indian instruments  
Repetitive melody

*unchanged, but played on  
often mixed with  
mixed with  
treated in a*

#### UK pop/dance music

drum machines  
English in the lyrics  
Western pop instruments  
verse-chorus structure

- *Rhinegold Exercise 4.36*



## Upper Fifth Listening: Fusions

### Bhangra

#### MODERN BHANGRA

- Modern Bhangra uses lots of **music technology**:
  - **remixes** – different layers/instruments mixed together in new ways
  - **samples** from other music, e.g. bass lines, drum parts, words, etc.
  - **drum machines** instead of the dhol
  - DJ techniques like **scratching**

#### BOLLYWOOD

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDhw57oGzGg>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HE0hS2NK4r0>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWeHe\\_DmFU0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWeHe_DmFU0)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hjJhyCqopA>

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Upper Fifth Listening: Fusions

**African Fusions**

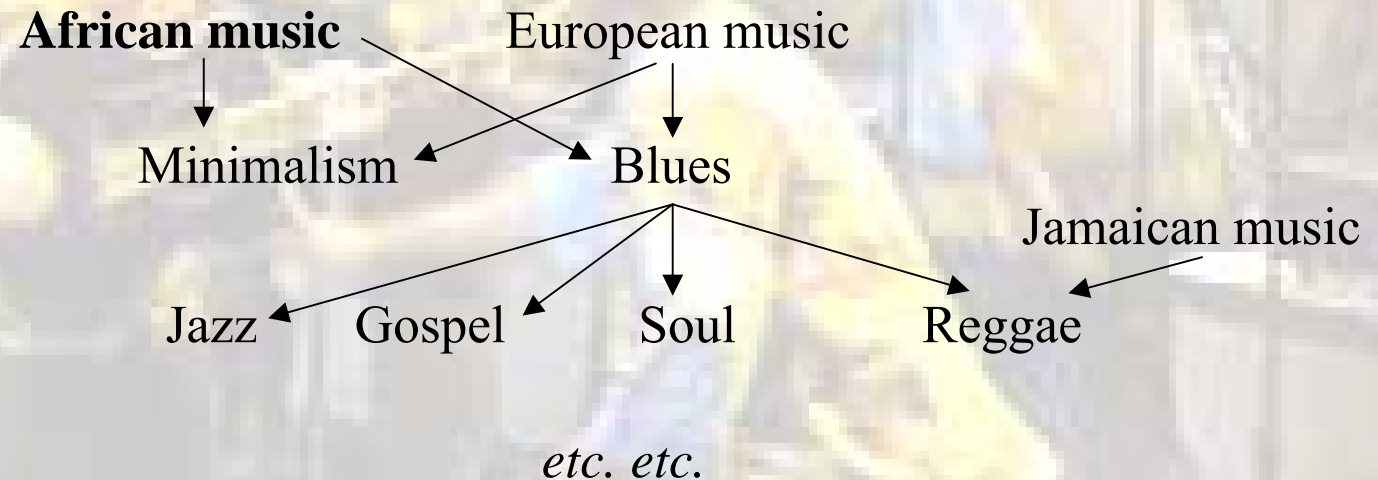
*Where have we seen the influence of African music in western styles before?  
How was this influence shown?*



## Upper Fifth Listening: Fusions

### African Fusions

*Where have we seen the influence of African music in western styles before?  
How was this influence shown?*



Africa has had a big influence on the course of the development of Western music!



Upper Fifth Listening: Fusions

**African Fusions**

*Name four features of Western pop music that have come from the African tradition.*



## Upper Fifth Listening: Fusions

### **African Fusions**

*Name three features of Western pop music that have come from the African tradition.*

Complex cross rhythms

Repetition

Call and response

**Example:** Ladysmith Black Mambazo (*remember them?*)

- collaborated with Paul Simon on his 1986 album 'Graceland'.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OafqYNCzq5U>

- and went on to sing with other Western groups such as the Lighthouse Family and

Des'ree

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYimlGnEWIQ>

- *Rhinegold Listening Exercise 4.34*



## Upper Fifth Listening: Fusions

### **African Fusions**

#### David Fanshawe's "African Sanctus"

In 1969, Fanshawe hitch-hiked through the Sudan and Uganda, making recordings of African tribal music. He fused these recordings with a Western-style choral mass setting.

- *What is a mass setting?*
- *Where else have we seen the use of recorded music?*
- *See DVD.*