



Year 4 - Popular Music (Jazz)

Can I respond to Take the 'A' Train by composing and performing?



Billy Strayhorn

Sticky Knowledge

Take the 'A' Train by **Billy Strayhorn** was written in **1939**.

This piece of music was inspired by the 'A' line of the New York subway.

This type of **popular music** is known as **jazz music**. Jazz music originated from the **African American** communities of **New Orleans, USA** in the **late 19th** and **early 20th** centuries.

'Take the 'A' Train' became the signature piece for the **Duke Ellington Orchestra** which is known as one of the greatest jazz bands of all time.

There are many instruments used in jazz music which include the piano, saxophone, trumpet, drums, trombone and cello.



New Orleans is a city in the state of Louisiana in the USA.

Vocabulary

Swing

Swing music is a style of jazz music that has a medium tempo. It creates smooth sounds for easy-listening by using simple chords.

Blues

Blues music is characterised by 'sad melodies'. The expression 'having the blues' means you feel gloomy and early blues music was slow and emotional using simple harmonies.

Chords

Three or more single pitches heard simultaneously.

Call and Response

A technique where one musician offers a phrase and a second player answers with a direct commentary or response to the offered phrase.

Improvisation

This means creating a musical composition on the spot. This could be by yourself or with others.

piano



saxophone



trumpet



trombone



cello



drums

