# Bhangra

Originally a folk dance

Fast paced from Punjab (Northern India & Pakistan)

Celebration Music (Harvest, Wedding, New Year)

Basic rhythm played by the **Dhol** player (often using **polyrhythms**, **cross-rhythms**, **syncopation**)

Chaal: An eight note repeated pattern (quavers are swung like in jazz and blues)

Modern Bhangra style developed in the 1970s/80s in the UK

Modern Bhangra **fuses** Punjabi folk music with western Instruments and technology: electric guitar, keyboard, samples, drum machines, DJ techniques (mixing, scratching)

#### **African Music**

Used for a range of occasions (weddings, funerals, call people together, send messages)

Main drum types: **Djembe** (hand drum); **Dundun** (stick drum); **Donno** (talking drum)

**Djembe** technique (slap – tone – bass)

Master Drummer (leads the group)

# Call & Response

Layers of rhythmic cycles create **polyrhythms** and cross rhythms

Other instruments: The Balafon; The Kora; The Mbira (Thumb Piano)

A cappella singing is common.

Two main types of singing: Mbube (loud and powerful) Isicathamiya (soft and gentle)

# Samba:

From **Brazil** and is a dance music that is often associated with carnivals. Dues to its **slave** trade origins, it shares many aspects with **African** music.

Usually in 2 or 4 beats per bar. It is often fast and often in the major (sounds happy)

A range of instruments may be used, but Samba is dominated by Percussion instruments (Surdo, Timbale, Repinique, Cuica, Tamborim, Agogo, Reco-reco, Claves, Cow-bell)

Samba uses call & response (between the leader and the group).

The leader uses a whistle to signal to the group

# **Indian Classical Music**

Raga: Scale (there are many ragas – they represent the season, time of day, mood etc.)

Microtone: used in Raga to create scales that are very different to western ones

Tala: a pattern of beats that set the rhythm of a piece

Improvisation: based on both the raga and the tala

Music is passed on by the aural tradition (not written down)

**Sitar** (Melody); **Tambura** (Harmony/Drone); **Tabla** (sets the rhythm –Tala)

Four Sections: ALAP (Sitar player plays the raga notes – there is no beat/pulse

JHOR (Faster and played by just the string instruments)

JHALA (more exciting – lots of improvisation)

**GAT/BANDISH** (The Tabla player joins in – use of question and answer style)

Indian Classical music influenced Pop/Rock: The Beatles with Ravi Shankar

#### **Greek Music**

Bouzouki (Stringed) Outi (Oud) (String) Toubeleki (Hand Drum) Defi (tambourine)

Modes used (instead of major or minor scales)

The lyrics cover a wide range of topics (celebration, laments, war & political)

Most Greek music is used for **dancing** and use **different meters**:

Irregular time signatures

# Israeli Music

Lots of different influences due to emigration to Israel in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century = lots of different instruments used

**Klezmer** is a music that uses clarinet, violin, double bass, guitar and accordion (originally from Romania)

Israeli music often has a strong driving rhythm and is used for dance.

#### Palestinian Music

Uses set rhythm patterns called **iqa** (a bit like **tala**). Iqa are often in **irregular** time signatures (i.e. 7/4 or 7/8)

Modes are used (these are different from Western scales and use **microtones**)

Mainly **monophonic** (no harmony) often by lots of instruments. If some individuals **improvise** by adding **ornaments** the texture is called **heterophonic** 

Instruments: Stringed - **Zither**, **Oud**; Wind/Pipe - **Mijwiz**, **Shababa**; Percussion – **Doumbek**, **Deff** 

The **Doumbek** plays the main rhythm

# Calypso Music

Comes from the Trinidad & Tobago (Caribbean( but is influenced by different music (African Slaves, Spanish, French & British cultures).

Even beats to each bar (divided as 3+3+2) with syncopated rhythm patterns.

Songs have a verse chorus structure (**strophic**).

The texture can be **Homophonic** (melody + accompaniment) or **Polyphonic** (lots of countermelodies).

A calypso band has a wide range of instruments: bass guitar, acoustic/electric guitar, brass (trumpets & trombones),

Percussion instruments include: Bongos, Claves, Maracas, Conga drums and Steel Pans.

**Steel Pans** are tuned (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and are played with mallets.

Pan techniques: tremolo/rolling; trills; dynamic contrast

### **Shared terms:**

The aural tradition Improvisation Syncopation Cross-rhythm Polyrhythm Irregular time signatures Call and Response Ostinato

Drone Homophonic Polyphonic Accents Occasion Modes