

# 1 What is World Music?

# FACT SHEET

If you're wondering just what in the world is World Music, don't worry or stress; it's not a mystery, it's just a term we use. World Music or global music, is music from all over the planet, right? Well, you would be correct, except it usually doesn't include any music that would fit in a regular Top 40 pop chart!

The term "**World Music**" was coined by an ethnomusicologist named Robert Brown. He developed college programs of study about World Music, and organized a concert series with visiting performers from Africa and Asia. In 1982, France initiated World Music Day ("Fête de la Musique") which would continue on June 21st of every year to the present day. The genre didn't really take off until June 29, 1987, when a group of record company executives got together. They were meeting because they were trying to deal with the unexpected surge in non-English language recordings. These record label executives were having a difficult time finding rack space in their stores for new releases from Latin American, Asian, African, and other international artists. They needed to develop a catchy generic, "umbrella" name for this music, and launch a marketing campaign. With a show of hands, World Music was officially born as a **genre**, and October 1987 was designated "World Music Month!"

Leading up to this new genre **Paul Simon** had released the album **Graceland** in 1986 which was a huge success and featured artists from southern Africa, including **Ladysmith Black Mambazo**. Partly as a result of this success and the work of **Peter Gabriel** and **Johnny Clegg** among others, more and more world artists were venturing into the spotlight of the music business.



*African vocal group, Ladysmith Black Mambazo*

Support for the best performers came from their labels, the new "World Music" distribution category, DJs providing airplay, compilation cassettes, festival organizations like **WOMAD** (World of Music, Arts, and Dance, founded by Peter Gabriel), and fans from their native countries and the world stage.

What exactly is World Music, then? Well, to most people, it's just plain music---that is, the familiar, everyday music that they hear in their neighborhoods and places like local restaurants. The term World Music covers an amazing variety of sounds and styles. Some of it is **ethnic** music that incorporates sounds of traditional instruments. Some may also incorporate scales that are non-Western, using unusual tunings. Some World Music is simply vocal music, some solely instrumental.

Other types of World Music have a cutting-edge "pop" sound, sometimes using contemporary instruments such as keyboards and guitars. A famous African world musician, **Youssou N'Dour** once said that "instruments don't have a nationality, only musicians . . ." Because some instruments are traditional in certain cultures, when they are used in combination with modern instruments in contemporary genres, the style is considered to be "crossover." It is this crossover music that has become especially popular in England and America. Some of the labels refer to this influence of Latin, African, Celtic, hip hop, pop, jazz, and reggae, among many other beats and styles as "World Beat," and they display the music separately from World Music.

As global communication is bringing the people of the world in closer contact with one another, World Music will grow in popularity and influence. It has proven to be a force to be reckoned with. With the success of this genre, millions of recordings have been sold that you couldn't begin to find just 25 years ago. Talented musicians from poor countries can step into the limelight, and support their families doing what they love to do. Festivals and concerts are happening in many parts of the world, showcasing talent from "out there." Because of World Music, as a society we are richer because we can experience and learn about treasures from other cultures.

Have you ever seen the movie or the musical called “The Lion King”?

African music had a significant impact on the creation of the film and musical “The Lion King” which is a blend of traditional African tribal music together with Western modern culture. Songs such as “The Circle Of Life” and “He lives in You” are a mixture of the South African Zulu language with English lyrics.



Africa is the second largest, and the second most populated continent on our planet. It has a population of over 1 billion, contains 53 countries, is home to the world’s largest hot desert and more than 1,000 languages are spoken throughout the whole continent. Many people can speak several African languages plus one or more European languages. To give you an idea about how important music and dance are in Africa, most languages there don’t even have separate words for music and dance. The arts are part of the way all people express themselves every day .

Music and culture in Africa has been passed down from generation to generation. A language known as “Drum Language or “Drum Talk” involved the playing of drums made from hollow tree trunks. It was used by tribes to communicate with each other over large distances. There is no surprise that language and music generally have very close connections in many African cultures.

Today, Drum Talk may be used as part of a ceremonies which include dance, rituals and story telling and use drums such as pressure drums and slit gongs for these purposes. Good listening skills are taught when children are very small, so that the music of each group can survive through the ages. Young African musicians are influenced by these ancient folk traditions, by other cultures, and also by modern global sounds.



*African mbira (thumb piano)*



*african slit gongs (Also known as slit drums or log drums)*

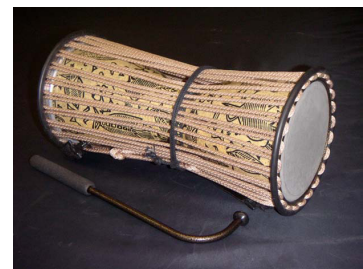
Besides using the voice, African musical instruments include a wide range of drums, **slit gongs**, rattles, and double bells. There are also melodic instruments like string instruments, ( including musical bows, different types of harps and harp-like instruments such as the **Kora** as well as fiddles), many types of xylophone and

lamellophone like the **mbira** (also known as the thumb piano), and different types of wind instrument like flutes and trumpets.



*The djembe, the most well known drum from West Africa*

Drums used in African traditional music include **talking drums** and **Djembe** in West Africa, **Water Drums** in Central and West Africa, and different types of **Ngoma Drums** (or engoma) in Central and Southern Africa. Other percussion instruments include many rattles and shakers, such as the **kosika** (similar to two small maracas), rain stick, bells and wood sticks (also referred to as claves).



*A talking drum, from West Africa*

There are also lots of other types of drums, flutes, stringed instruments, and wind instruments used throughout the whole of Africa. In fact, many modern instruments, such as flute, double reed, trumpet-type horns, stringed instruments and percussion of all kinds can trace their roots back to Africa.

# 3 Indonesian Gamelan

# FACT SHEET

Indonesia has a long and rich history of music which can be traced back to the third century. It is a mix of Indian, Arabian and Asian styles and uses many different types of instruments which gives it its unique sound which can be very foreign sounding to Western ears. Because the nation is made up of over 17,000 islands, there are hundreds of different styles of music, but the most important and popular style to come out of Indonesia is called **gamelan**. There are several styles of gamelan which come from different Indonesian Islands, but the most common styles are from Java and it's neighboring island of Bali.

In Indonesian, the word gamelan means 'to hit or strike' and is an ensemble of approximately fifteen mostly metallic percussion instruments with gong or "bell" like sounds. It is the music which is used in any important Indonesian ritual or ceremony such as weddings, birthdays and funerals, meditation, cleansing rituals and social community events. It is also the music which accompanies the traditional form of puppet theatre in Indonesia called **Wayang**.



*A selection of gamelan instruments*

The instruments of the gamelan are built then tuned to a specific scale. Each gamelan set only plays in one scale. The instruments also stay together as a whole set which cannot be swapped with other groups. Each gamelan has an individual and authentic sound to it and is tuned to either a five note scale called **sléndro** or a seven note scale called a **pélog**.

In the middle of the ensemble are the main melody instruments which are called the **Balungan**. This section of the ensemble includes instruments such as a family of bronze metallophones called **Saron** and **Slenthem**.

The balungan(main melody)is punctuated by the larger gongs called the **Gong Ageng** and **kempul** and the horizontally-mounted gongs called the **kenong**, **kethuk** and **kempyang** at the back of the gamelan.

The front section of the ensemble embellishes the main melody and may include instruments such as the **Bonang** ( a collection of small gongs mounted on a frame), **Gendèr**(multi octave metallophone), **Rebab** (a type of stringed fiddle with a spike on the bottom so it's also often referred to as the spiked fiddle), **Gambang** (xylophone), **Siter** (which is a plucked zither) and a **Surling** (a bamboo flute).

The ensemble may also include a **Gérong** which is a male chorus and a **Pesindhèn** which is a solo female vocalist. The whole gamelan is co-ordinated by the drummer in the centre of the ensemble, playing a selection of **Kendhang** (double-headed drums).

Gamelan music is often repetitive or cyclic in nature which means the same rhythms and melodies are often used over again and again and are indicated by the strikes of the gong. Some people believe that the Gamelan can lead the mind into a deep trance and help with meditation.

When the famous composer Claude Debussy first heard Gamelan music at a world fair in 1889, he spent hours listening to it, transcribing melodies and examining the instruments and their tunings. After he heard this style of music, he used a whole tone scale (which is similar to the sound of Indonesian scales) extensively in his own compositions.



## World Music Puzzler

Unscramble each of the clue words.

Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

### Clues

- 1 The famous album that Ladysmith Black Mambazo sang with Paul Simon.
- 2 A worldwide festival organization
- 3 Around the world
- 4 World music is sometimes called traditional or \_\_\_\_\_ music.
- 5 One type of event that helps to promote World Music
- 6 Music that uses combinations of traditional and modern instruments and styles
- 7 The founder of World of Music, Arts, and Dance
- 8 A group that worked with Paul Simon on Graceland
- 9 An artist who helped to promote World Music
- 10 A type or style of music

1 LEGCAANRD

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

12

2 MOWDA

--	--	--	--	--	--

5 6

3 LOBGAL

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

14 11

4 HITCEN

--	--	--	--	--	--

2 15

5 SITSEAFVL

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

17 8

6 CEROSOSROV

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

10 13

7 REPTE GEBAILR

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

9

8 SAUAVK

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

16 7

9 NYNHOJ GCLEG

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3 1

10 NRGEE

--	--	--	--	--	--

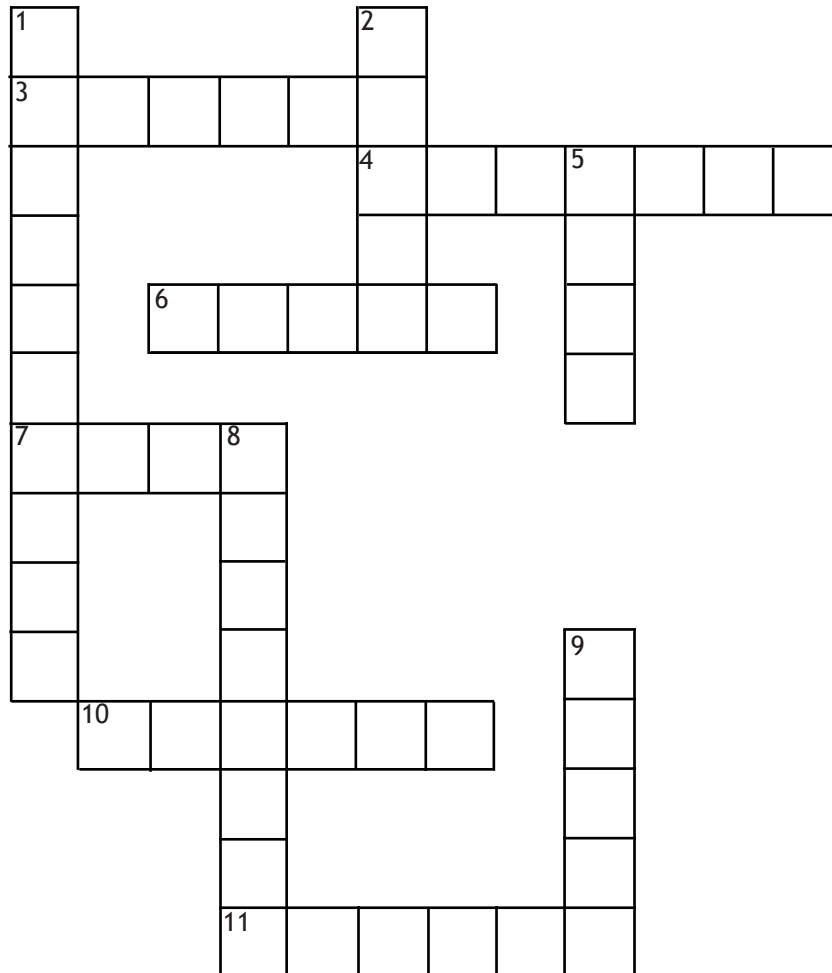
4

**What do you call someone who makes a career of studying music from other cultures?**

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

## Crossword



### Clues

#### ACROSS

- 3 Another name for ngoma drums
- 4 A \_\_\_\_\_ drum is played with a crook shaped stick
- 6 African name for a thumb piano
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ gong can also be called a log drum.
- 10 Africa is home to the worlds largest \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 The most well-known West African drum

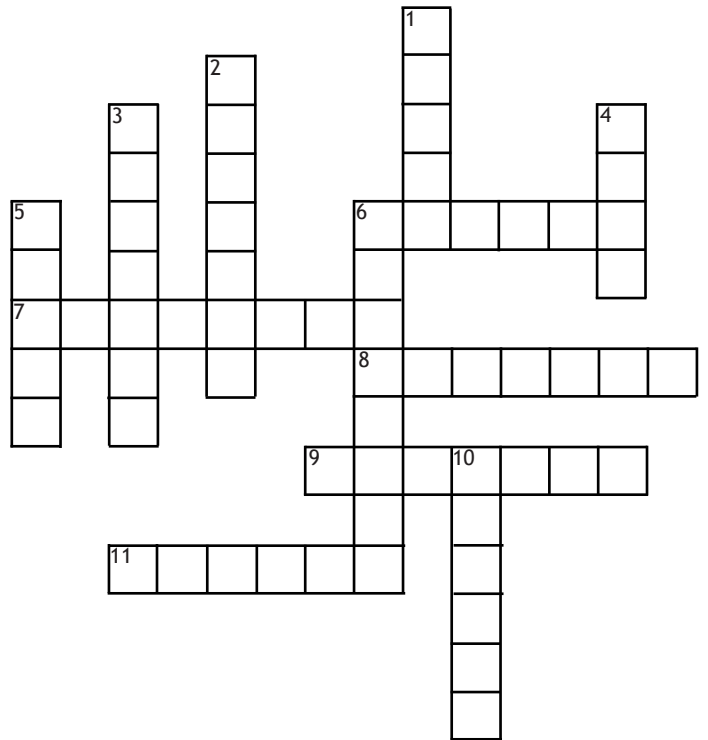
#### DOWN

- 1 Family of instruments
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ drums come from Central and Southern Africa
- 5 Harp like instrument
- 8 There are over \_\_\_\_\_ different languages spoken in Africa
- 9 Woodwind instrument with roots in Africa

## Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 6 A large gong
  - 7 Indonesian word for the melody instruments in the Gamelan
  - 8 A famous composer influenced by the Gamelan
  - 9 Indonesian word for a xylophone
  - 11 Indonesian word for a traditional form of puppet theatre

- DOWN**
- 1 Each set of gamelan plays only one \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 A bamboo flute in Indonesian
  - 3 The most popular form of traditional music from Indonesia
  - 4 An island in Indonesia, and famous tourist destination
  - 5 A type of stringed fiddle
  - 6 An Indonesian word for double-headed drums
  - 10 A collection of small gongs mounted on a frame



## Matching

Draw a line between the picture of each of the instruments of the gamelan on the left and its name to the right:



Kempul

Kenong

Saron

Slenthem

Kendhang

## Find a Word

A	W	K	C	J	P	X	U	O	O	R	J	E	A	K
K	N	H	E	W	O	K	W	R	L	A	C	I	D	R
R	B	G	J	C	E	G	E	T	V	Y	S	T	V	O
N	A	Z	K	L	A	H	N	A	L	E	M	A	G	N
I	L	T	E	L	T	K	R	U	N	L	H	S	Z	C
L	I	L	I	I	U	F	N	O	F	L	U	T	E	O
O	E	R	Z	U	K	N	D	E	Y	T	I	J	S	N
I	P	K	J	K	G	N	G	P	N	Z	Y	Y	W	G
V	E	V	G	G	I	G	K	M	U	R	D	P	K	I
X	Y	L	O	P	H	O	N	E	N	J	B	C	N	Q
P	R	I	V	Q	Y	S	M	G	J	U	D	I	K	B
P	R	S	H	O	X	Y	C	Q	N	H	A	N	C	F
Q	R	S	J	P	W	Y	H	Y	S	O	K	K	I	M
J	X	B	A	T	B	Y	N	E	A	M	G	W	M	K

ANGKLUNG

JAVA

BALI

KECAK

DRUM

KRONCONG

FLUTE

UKELELE

GAMELAN

VIOLIN

GONG

XYLOPHONE

GUITAR

ZITHER

## World Music Puzzler

Unscramble each of the clue words.

Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

### Clues

- 1 The famous album that Ladysmith Black Mambazo sang with Paul Simon.
- 2 A worldwide festival organization
- 3 Around the world
- 4 World music is sometimes called traditional or \_\_\_\_\_ music.
- 5 One type of event that helps to promote World Music
- 6 Music that uses combinations of traditional and modern instruments and styles
- 7 The founder of World of Music, Arts, and Dance
- 8 A group that worked with Paul Simon on Graceland
- 9 An artist who helped to promote World Music
- 10 A type or style of music

1 LEGCAANRD

G R A C E L A N D  
12

2 MOWDA

W O M A D  
5 6

3 LOBGAL

G L O B A L  
14 11

4 HITCEN

E T H N I C  
2 15

5 SITSEAFVL

F E S T I V A L S  
17 8

6 CEROSOSROV

C R O S S O V E R  
10 13

7 REPTE GEBAILR

P E T E R G A B R I E L  
9

8 SAUAVK

S A V U K A  
16 7

9 NYNHOJ GCLEG

J O H N N Y C L E G G  
3 1

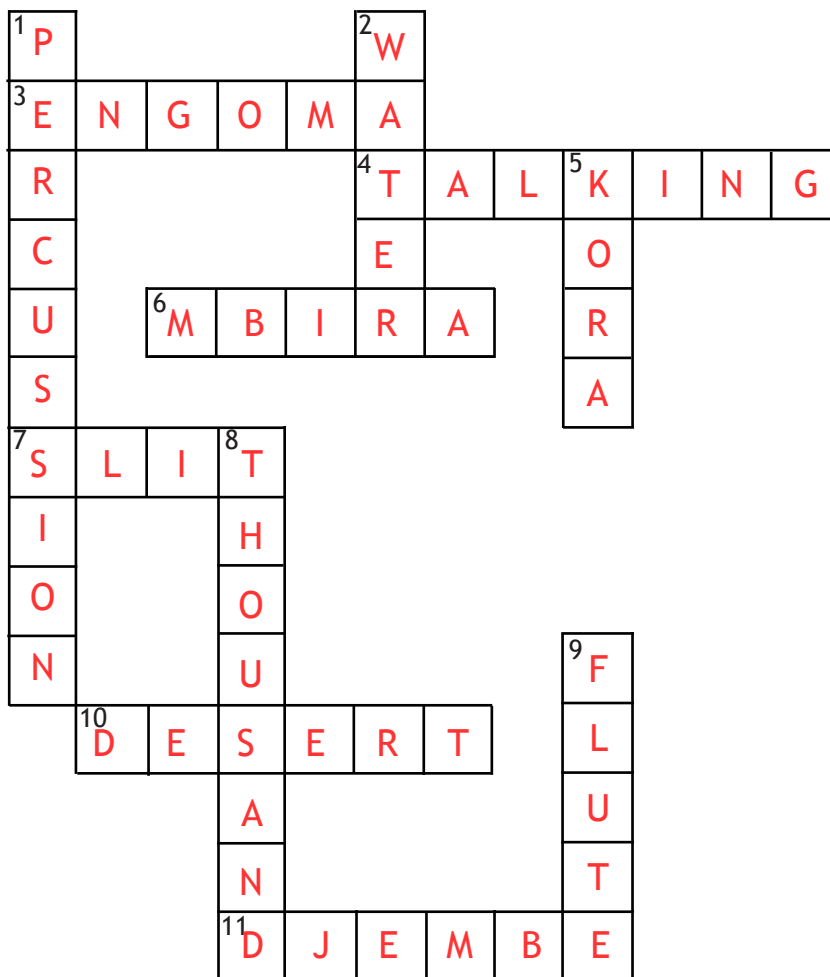
10 NRGEE

G E N R E  
4

What do you call someone who makes a career of studying music from other cultures?

E T H N O M U S I C O L O G I S T  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

## Crossword



### Clues

#### ACROSS

- 3 Another name for ngoma drums
- 4 A \_\_\_\_\_ drum is played with a crook shaped stick
- 6 African name for a thumb piano
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ gong can also be called a log drum.
- 10 Africa is home to the worlds largest \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 The most well-known West African drum

#### DOWN

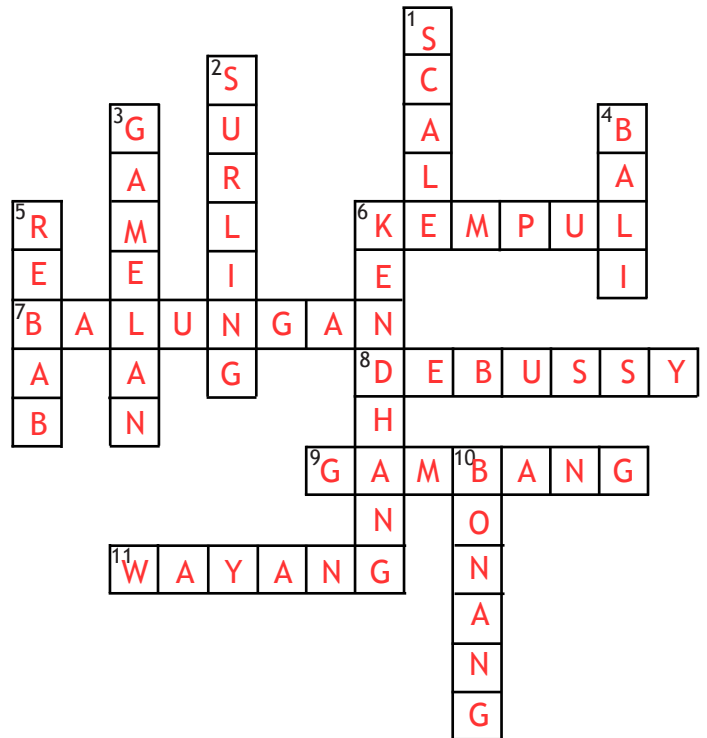
- 1 Family of instruments
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ drums come from Central and Southern Africa
- 5 Harp like instrument
- 8 There are over \_\_\_\_\_ different languages spoken in Africa
- 9 Woodwind instrument with roots in Africa



## Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 6 A large gong
  - 7 Indonesian word for the melody instruments in the Gamelan
  - 8 A famous composer influenced by the Gamelan
  - 9 Indonesian word for a xylophone
  - 11 Indonesian word for a traditional form of puppet theatre

- DOWN**
- 1 Each set of gamelan plays only one \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 A bamboo flute in Indonesian
  - 3 The most popular form of traditional music from Indonesia
  - 4 An island in Indonesia, and famous tourist destination
  - 5 A type of stringed fiddle
  - 6 An Indonesian word for double-headed drums
  - 10 A collection of small gongs mounted on a frame



## Matching

Draw a line between the picture of each of the instruments of the gamelan on the left and its name to the right:



- Kempul
- Kenong
- Saron
- Slenthem
- Kendhang

## Find a Word



- ANGKLUNG
- JAVA
- BALI
- KECAK
- DRUM
- KRONCONG
- FLUTE
- UKELELE
- GAMELAN
- VIOLIN
- GONG
- XYLOPHONE
- GUITAR
- ZITHER

these pages are a sample from:

## Printable Music Lesson Plans - World Music

<http://funmusicco.com/music-lesson-plans/world-music-teaching-materials/>

- 15 Lessons ranging from African music through to Irish folk music.
- each lesson contains a factsheet, fun style worksheet and lesson planning ideas
- Powerpoint presentation also included
- Plus links to publicly available videos of world music groups



Lessons contain your choice of a full fact sheet, or a 'fill in the blanks' style



"Fill in the blanks" fact sheets match the included powerpoint presentation



Find out more here:

<http://funmusicco.com/music-lesson-plans/world-music-teaching-materials/>