

Music 101 - Folk Music

ETHNOMUSICOLOGY - the study of folk music, which includes the study of music in culture and in the context of music in society.

FOLK MUSIC - music in the oral tradition, performed by non-professionals, and understood by broad segments of a population. It is characteristic of a nation, society, or ethnic group. There are also some modifications of this standard definition.

Categories of folk music:

1. Folk or traditional music
2. Tribal or primitive music
3. Urban folk music

Items to consider for the study of music in each culture:

1. What is the role of music in this society?
2. What is the role of the musician?
3. What kind of music is admired?
4. What kind of musician is admired?
5. Is the music used for functional purposes or for entertainment?

Types of folk music:

1. Narrative ballads (songs that tell a story)
"The House Carpenter"
"Barbry Allen"
2. Lyric songs
"Greensleeves"
3. Blues
"Nobody's Fault But Mine"
"Beggin' the Blues"
4. Work
"John Henry"
"Erie Canal"
"Home on the Range"
5. Children's songs
"Today is Monday:
"Blue Tail Fly"
"A Frog He Would A-wooing Go"
6. Broadside ballads
"The Riflemen of Bennington"
"Fair Fannie Moore"
7. Dance music
"Skip to My Lou"
Fiddle Tunes
8. Urban folk music
Weavers - "Go Tell it on the Mountain"
Joan Baez - "Children of Darkness" by Richard Farina
Judy Collins - "Michael from Mountains" by Joni Mitchell

Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel - "Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme"
Peter, Paul and Mary - "Puff, the Magic Dragon" by Lipton and Varrow
Bob Dylan - "A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall"
Alison Krauss - "I've Got That Old Feeling" by Sidney Cox