

# Knowledge Organiser – Dancing In The Street – Year 5, Unit 5

## 1 – Listen & Appraise: Dancing In The Street (Motown)

**Structure:** Intro, verse 1, chorus, bridge, verse 2, chorus, bridge, verse 3.

**Instruments/voices you can hear:** Female voice and female backing vocals, keyboard, drums, bass guitar (rhythm section), brass section (trumpet, trombone and sax).

*Can you find the pulse as you are listening? Is the tempo fast, slow or inbetween? Dynamics? Texture?*

## 2 – Musical Activities using glocks and/or recorders

**Warm-up games** play and copy back using up to 3 notes – F, G + A.

Bronze: F | Silver: F + G | Gold: F, G + A challenge.

*Which challenge did you get to?*

**Singing** in unison. And with backing vocals

**Play instrumental parts** with the song by ear and/or from notation using the easy or medium part. You will be using up to 2 notes – F + G (complex rhythms).  
*Which part did you play?*

**Improvise** using up to 3 notes – D, E + F.

Bronze: D | Silver: D + E | Gold: D, E + F challenge  
*Which challenge did you get to?*

**Compose** a simple melody using simple rhythms choosing from the notes C, D, E, F + G.

## 3 – Perform & Share

Decide how your class will introduce the performance. Perhaps add some choreography? Tell your audience how you learnt this song and why. Record the performance and talk about it afterwards.

**The performance will include one or more of the following:**

Improvisations • Instrumental performances • Compositions



## About this Unit

**Theme:** Motown.

**Facts/info:** Dancing In The Street was written by Marvin Gaye, William "Mickey" Stevenson and Ivy Jo Hunter. It first became popular in 1964 with Martha And The Vandellas. The track was recorded on the Motown record label and became one of its signature songs.

**Listen to 5 other Motown songs:**

- I can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie Honey Bunch) by The Four Tops
- I Heard it Through the Grapevine by Marvin Gaye
- Ain't No Mountain High Enough sung by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell
- You Are the Sunshine of My Life by Stevie Wonder
- The Tracks of My Tears sung by Smokie Robinson

**Vocabulary:** Soul, groove, riff, bass line, backbeat, brass section, harmony, hook, melody, compose, improvise, cover, pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture, structure

## Reflection

*What did you like best about this Unit? Why? Was there anything you didn't enjoy about it? Why? Did you have any strong feelings about it? Were you proud of yourself, happy or annoyed?*

**What are the 'style indicators' of Motown?**

*How do you know this is Motown?*