



Musical Theatre

Musical theatre combines songs, spoken dialogue and dance to tell a story. A musical is different to a play as it applies more importance to the songs and music over other elements of the production.



Musical theatre is a genre in itself. It is often quite stylistic and can use a variety of theatrical techniques. This genre can overlap with the Opera genre, however, they are not the same.

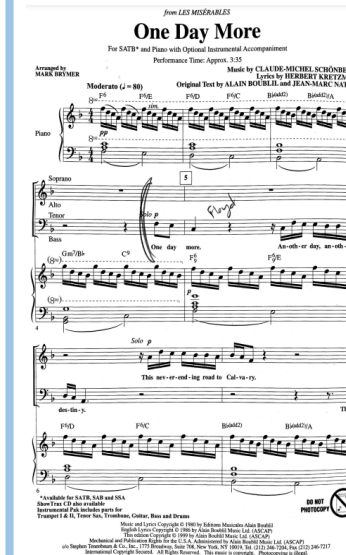
Musical Theatre Songs

Within musical theatre, there are two types of songs: solo songs and ensemble numbers.

Solo songs are sung by an individual or pair and are usually about how a character is feeling Whereas, ensemble numbers require a larger amount of performers and often reveal the plot or mood within the musical.

Ensemble singing describes how a choir of many voices blends together to sound like one big voice. Each individual singer will have their own part to play; whether that is singing at a different pitch or dynamic to others.

Staff Notation



Staff notation is a way of writing music down. Performers use this to learn about the pitch and length to sing musical notes. Performers must be able to read staff notation to ensure consistency between them and the instruments accompaniments.

Scales

A scale is a group of notes arranged by ascending or descending order of pitch. Scales are important because they are a great starting point for creating ideas for melodies, bass lines and hooks. The distance between two pitches in a scale is called an interval. The intervals between each pitch give a scale its specific sound and feeling. There are many different scales and each one can conjure up different feelings and moods.

major scale = happy and uplifting



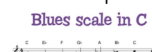
minor scale = sad and reflective



whole tone scale = dreamy



blues scale = upbeat



Key Vocabulary

Table with 2 columns: term and definition. Rows include: staff notation, pitch, dynamics, expression, scales, rhythm, harmony.

Musicals

