

LKS2 Music Knowledge Organiser: Lean on Me

Key Enquiry Question: Explore the song Lean on Me, a soul/gospel song by Bill Withers.

National Curriculum Objectives:

- ★ play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- ★ listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- ★ appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians
- ★ an understanding of the history of music



Key vocabulary

Word	Meaning
melody	Another name for a tune.
pulse	The heartbeat or steady beat of a song/piece of music.
rhythm	The combination of long and short sounds to make patterns.
pitch	The range of high and low sounds.
tempo	An Italian word used to describe how fast/slow the music goes.
dynamics	How loud or quiet the music is.
texture	Layers of sound in music.
structure	How the sections (verses and choruses etc.) of a song are ordered to make the whole piece.
hook	A term used in pop music to describe a short catchy phrase or riff that we can't stop singing; the bit that 'hooks' us in; the main musical idea from a song that we remember.
riff	A short repeated phrase, often played on a lead instrument such as guitar, piano or saxophone
solo	An Italian word used to describe playing/singing/performing on our own
by ear	to act spontaneously and according to the situation. To play music without sheet music, meaning you either remembered the music or improvised it.
notation	the link between sound and symbol.
bass	The member of a family of instruments that is the lowest in pitch.
drums	A percussion instrument sounded by being struck with sticks or the hands, typically cylindrical, barrel-shaped, or bowl-shaped, with a taut membrane over one or both ends.
improvise	To make up a tune and play it on the spot; there is an assumption that it can never be recreated.
compose	Creating and developing musical ideas.
composition	Making up your own music is called composition.
unison	Everyone plays or sings the same music at the same time.
Backing vocals	The accompaniment to a song.
Piano	a large keyboard musical instrument with a wooden case enclosing a soundboard and metal strings, which are struck by hammers when the keys are pressed.
organ	Organ usually refers to church organs but is also used to describe a type of electric keyboard that is large and with 2 or 3 keyboards and foot pedals.

Sticky Knowledge:

- ★ Lean On Me is a soul song written by Bill Withers in 1972.
- ★ The song has been covered and interpreted as a Gospel song because of its lyrics.
- ★ Gospel music is normally music that is from the Christian faith and sung with rich harmony and often with a call and response structure.
- ★ Soul music is a popular **music** genre that originated in the African American community throughout the United States in the 1950s and early 1960s.