

SESSION 1 – Musical films - An introduction.

STUDENT A - DEFINITIONS

The **musical** is a film genre that communicates its emotions and story with dialogues, songs, music, dance and technical aspects of the show as an **integrated unit**.



Dance in *West Side Story*.

The story combines the songs and dances with **dramatic goals**, which are able to evoke genuine emotions (laughter, sorrow, anger, etc.). The musical's moments of greatest dramatic intensity are often performed in song. When the emotion becomes too strong for dialogues you sing, when it becomes too strong for songs, you dance. The composer creates the song to describe the character (or characters) and their situation in the story.

The three main components of a musical are the spoken dialogues, the lyrics and the music:

1. The **script** of a musical refers to the story of the film: the spoken (not sung) dialogues.
2. The **libretto**, as in opera, is the combination of the dialogues and lyrics.
3. The **score** is formed by the music and lyrics together.



Score.



Demeter's costume in *Cats*.

The **creative team** (the director, the musical director and the choreographer) has a personal interpretation of a musical. This **interpretation** influences their presentation of the musical production. This production is also characterized by **technical aspects**: set, costumes, lighting, etc. that generally change from production to production.

SESSION 2 – *Porgy and Bess*.

STUDENT A – THE MAKING OF *PORGY AND BESS*



George Gershwin composed *Porgy and Bess* in 1935. It is based on **DuBose Heyward's** novel *Porgy*. Heyward wrote the libretto, and **Ira Gershwin** composed some of the lyrics.

In 1926 George Gershwin read the novel *Porgy* by DuBose Heyward, a native of Charleston, and immediately wrote to him asking him to collaborate on a folk opera based on the novel.

Heyward (center) with the Gershwin brothers.

In 1934 Gershwin and Heyward went to Folly Beach, South Carolina (a small island near Charleston) where Gershwin listened to the local music.

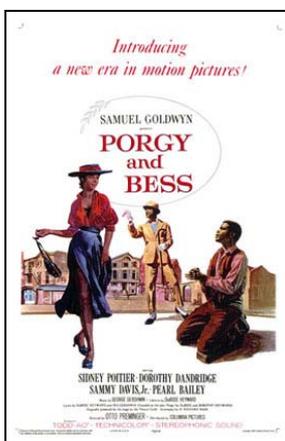
Porgy and Bess **premiered** in 1935. All the original **cast** (actors and actresses) were classical music black singers, which was really innovative and visionary at that moment.



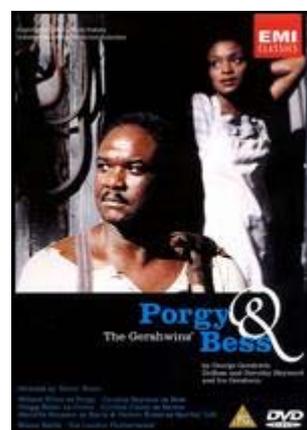
Porgy and Bess original cast in 1935.

In 1943, *Porgy and Bess* was shown in Europe for the first time in Copenhagen. This **performance** is notable because all the actors and actresses were white during Nazi occupation. After 22 performances, the Nazis closed the production.

This opera has been **filmed** twice: in 1959 and in 1993.



1959 Film version



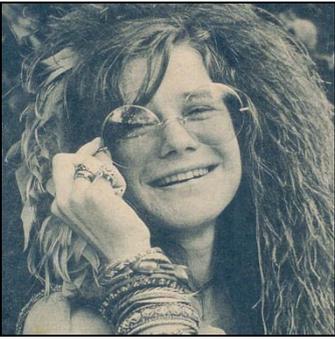
1993 Film version

SESSION 3 – “Summertime”. *Porgy and Bess*.

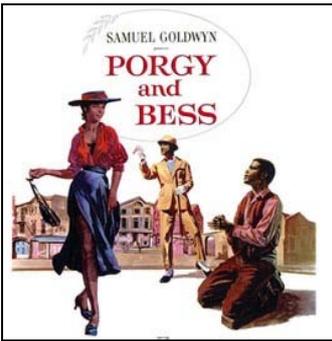
STUDENT A

There are more than 11,900 different recordings of this lullaby. We are going to listen to six of them. Label the pictures below:

Billie Holiday - Porgy and Bess film - The Zombies - Billy Stewart - Janis Joplin - Sublime



1.	2.	3.
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4.	5.	6.
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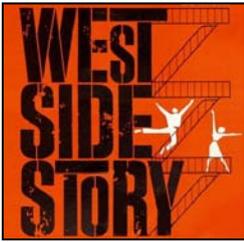
Complete the following chart asking your group mates for missing information.

Version	Year	Style	Notable instruments
Billie Holiday	1936		
Porgy and Bess film		Jazz	
The Zombies			Voice, piano, guitar, bass and drums.
Billy Stewart	1966		
Janis Joplin		Blues	
Sublime			Voice, guitar, bass and drums.

- 1. Billie Holiday 2:56 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApiOuBegj2g>
- 2. Porgy and Bess film 2:33 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEIL6kWwmv4>
- 3. The Zombies 2:12 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmOIW63Emw0>
- 4. Billy Stewart 3:51 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evCvGA8kP-E>
- 5. Janis Joplin 2:18 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTFF-BaT0MM>
- 6. Sublime 4:20 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0U0ODnxGaU&feature=related>

SESSION 4 – *West Side Story*.

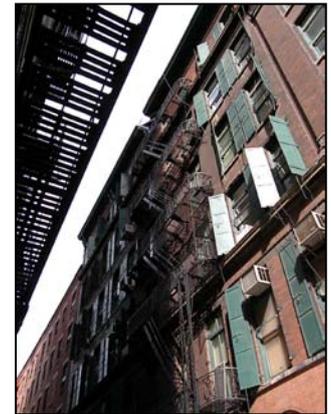
STUDENT A – THE MUSICAL



West Side Story poster.

West Side Story is a musical of 1957. **Leonard Bernstein** composed the music and **Stephen Sondheim** wrote the lyrics.

West Side Story is based on William Shakespeare's ***Romeo and Juliet*** but it is set in the **West Side neighbourhood** of New York in the 1950s. It explains the **rivalry** between two teenage gangs of different cultures: the **Jets** (white Americans) and the **Sharks** (Latin Puerto Rican immigrants). The young protagonist, **Tony**, who belongs to the Jets, falls in love with **Maria**, the sister of Bernardo, the Shark's leader. The couple defies the traditional rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, whose members don't understand their love.



Typical West Side buildings.



The Jets.



The Sharks.



When Maria and Tony met.

Elvis Presley and Audrey Hepburn almost played Tony and Maria roles in the **1961 film**, but Elvis' manager refused the job and Hepburn got pregnant. The film won 10 **Oscars**.

Bernstein's **score** for the musical has become extremely popular. The instrumentation is incredibly large, but typical for Broadway. A total of 51 different instruments (apart from the singers' voices) are used: flutes, oboes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, trombones, drums, xylophones, castanets, maracas, tambourines, piano, electric guitars, Spanish guitars, mandolins, violins, cellos, etc.

A musical device in *West Side Story* is the **tritone** interval. It is dissonant (it sounds unsettled and creates musical tension). It is frequently used, especially in all the fight music. Using the tritone, Bernstein shows his musical representation of the opposing gangs.

SESSION 5 – “America” *West Side Story*.

[Anita:]

Puerto Rico
My heart's devotion
Let it sink back in the ocean
Always the hurricanes blowing
Always the population growing
And the money owing
And the sunlight streaming
And the natives steaming
I like the island Manhattan
Smoke on your pipe
And put that in!

[Girls:]

I like to be in America!
O.K. by me in America!
Everything free in America.

[Bernando:]

For a small fee in America!

[Anita:]

Buying on credit is so nice.

[Bernando:]

One look at us, and they charge twice.

[Rosalia:]

I have my own washing machine.

[Indio:]

What will you have, though, to keep clean?

[Anita:] Skyscrapers bloom in America,

[Rosalia:] Cadillac zoom in America,

[Consuelo:] Industry boom in America.

[Guys:]

Twelve in a room in America!

[Anita:]

Lots of new housing with more space.

[Bernando:]

Lots of doors slamming in our face.

[Anita:]

I'll have a terrace apartment.

[Bernando:]

Better get rid of your accent.

[Anita:]

Life can be bright in America.

[Guys:]

If you can fight in America.

[Girls:]

Life is all right in America.

[Guys:]

If your all-white in America.

[Guys:]

la-la-la-la-la America... America

la-la-la-la-la America... America

[Girls:]

Here you are free and you have pride.

[Guys:]

Long as you stay on your own side.

[Girls:]

Free to be anything you choose.

[Guys:]

Free to wait tables and shine shoes!

[Bernando:]

Everywhere grime in America,

Organized crime in America,

Terrible time in America.

[Anita:]

You forget I'm in America.

[Bernando:]

I think I'll go back to San Juan.

[Anita:]

I know a boat you can get on.

[Girls:] Bye bye!

[Bernando:] Uh-huh!

[Bernando:]

Everyone there will give big cheer!

[Anita:]

Everyone there will have moved here.

[All:]

Ole!

Immigrants' perspective on the USA

In your group of three, complete this chart. **Don't copy the lyrics**, just write the topic.

Positive sides of immigration to the USA (The girls)	Negative sides of immigration to the USA (The guys)

STUDENT A – THE AUTHOR

Andrew Lloyd Webber (London, 1948) is a composer of musical theatre.



On his first day of school, when he was 3 years old, he covered his ears when other children produced sounds with musical instruments.

Lloyd Webber began writing music when he was 6 years old, and he published his first suite when he was 9. His aunt Viola, an actress, took Webber to watch her shows and introduced him into the world of theatre.

Lloyd-Webber is very popular. Some of his musicals have run for more than 10 years in the West End and on Broadway. He has composed **13 musicals**: *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita*, *Cats*, etc.

Andrew Lloyd Webber with a mask of *The Phantom of the Opera*.

His theatre company, the **Really Useful Group**, is one of the biggest in London. He owns many London theatres. He has won many **awards**: 7 Oliviers, 7 Tonys, 3 Grammys and one Emmy.



Olivier Award



Tony Award



Grammy Award



Emmy Award

Lloyd Webber is managing the UK's entry for the 2009 **Eurovision Song Contest**. In early 2009, the TV program *Eurovision: Your Country Needs You*, looked for a singer for a song he composed for the competition. At Eurovision, the singer will sing with Lloyd Webber on the piano.



Eurovision contest logo.

SESSION 7 – “Rum Tum Tugger”, “Memory” and “Skimbleshanks” *Cats*.

What do the music and the lyrics tell you about the aspect and character of each cat? Write all the words that come to your mind while listening to the song without watching the video.

1. The Rum Tum Tugger (4:23)

2. Grizabella (6:00)

3. Skimbleshanks (5:05)