

SESSION 1 – Musical films - An introduction.

STUDENT B - COMPOSITION

A musical often opens with a song that shows the **tone** of the film, introduces some or all the main characters, and shows the set of the film.



Porgy and Bess scene.

A musical can be built around 4-6 songs, called **tunes**, that appear regularly in the film (*Porgy and Bess*), or consist of a series of songs not musically related (*Chicago*).

Musicals dedicate more time to music than to dialogue. Music, and not dialogues, provides emotions. Spoken dialogues are generally introduced between musical numbers, although the use of "sung dialogues" (**recitative**) is also possible, especially in musicals where there aren't any spoken dialogues (*Les Misérables* and *Evita*).

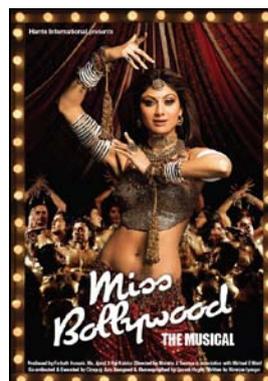
The material for musicals is often original, but many musicals are **adapted** from **novels** (*Man of La Mancha*), **plays** (*Hello, Dolly!*), **classic legends** (*Camelot!*), **historical events** (*Evita*) or **films** (*Hairspray*). On the other hand, many familiar musical **plays** are the basis for musical films (*West Side Story*). India produces numerous musical films, known as **Bollywood** musicals, and Japan produces **Anime-style** musicals. Another recent genre of musicals, called **jukebox musicals**, uses songs composed by a popular artist or group to form a story – sometimes based on the life of the person/group (*Mamma Mia!*, using ABBA songs).



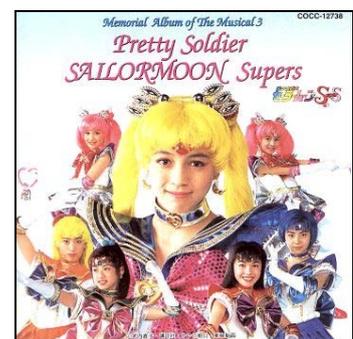
Camelot.



Evita.



A Bollywood musical.



An Anime musical.

SESSION 2 – *Porgy and Bess*.

STUDENT B – *PORGY AND BESS* CHARACTERISTICS



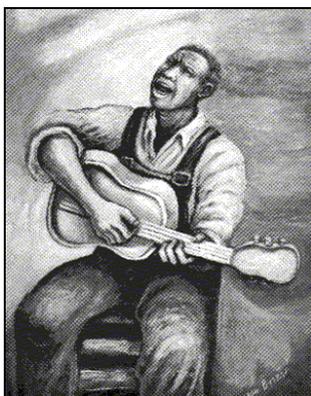
Porgy and Bess tells the story of **Porgy**, a disabled black man who lived in Catfish Row, a mansion in the black suburbs of Charleston (South Carolina) in the early 1920s. Porgy tries to rescue **Bess** from Crown, her violent and possessive lover, and Sportin' Life, the drug dealer. It is a **tragic love affair**.

Porgy and Bess performed in New York in March 2009.

Some critics consider this opera a **racist description** of African Americans. Several of the members of the original cast said that they thought that their characters were stereotypes: African Americans lived in poverty, took drugs and solved their problems fighting.

Gershwin considered *Porgy and Bess* his best work. People admire Gershwin's **innovative combination** of **European orchestral techniques** with **American jazz** and southern black **folk traditions**. Gershwin composed the songs with all the folk styles he knew: jubilees, blues, praying songs, street cries, work songs, and spirituals in combination with traditional arias and recitatives.

Many people think that for many songs, Gershwin used melodies from **Jewish liturgical music**. The score uses **leitmotifs**, which relate each character with a unique musical tune. The score combines these tunes to show conflict between characters.



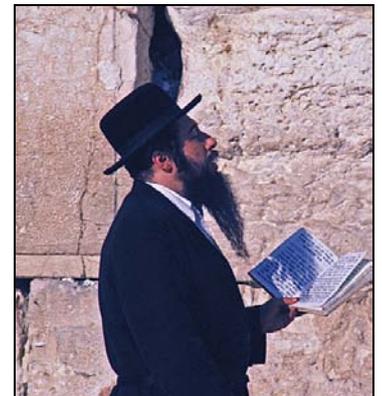
Blues.



Spirituals.



Aria.



Jewish liturgical prayer.

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

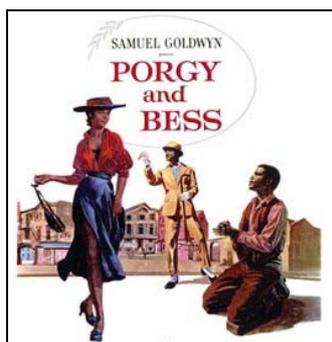
STUDENT B

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		Swing	
Porgy and Bess film			Voice, piano and violins.
The Zombies	1965		
Billy Stewart		Scat	
Janis Joplin			Voice, electric guitar, bass and drums.
Sublime	1997		

- | | | |
|------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 B – THE AUTHOR

Leonard Bernstein (Massachusetts 1918 – New York 1990) was an American **conductor**, **composer** and **pianist**. He conducted the **New York Philharmonic** and is popular for his compositions: he wrote three symphonies, two operas, five musicals (which include *West Side Story*) and numerous other pieces. Additionally, he was a formidable pianist. Bernstein was the first classical music conductor to make numerous television appearances.

His parents were Jewish. First, his father didn't like his son's interest in music but he took Leonard to a lot of concerts, where he got fascinated by the piano.



Leonard Bernstein by the piano.



He was a magnificent conductor.

After university, he moved to New York, where he had an active social life and love affairs with men and women. After that, he married a Chilean immigrant actress to stop gossips about him. But with the **Gay Liberation Movement**, he started extra-marital affairs again and his wife left him.

He was an **anti-AIDS** and **anti-discrimination activist** and a man of peace. He won 9 **Grammy Awards**, including a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and two **Tony Awards**.

He died of pneumonia and a tumour five days after his last concert. He was a heavy smoker. During his funeral procession in the streets of Manhattan, construction workers took their hats off and said "Goodbye Lenny."



A funeral procession.

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:]

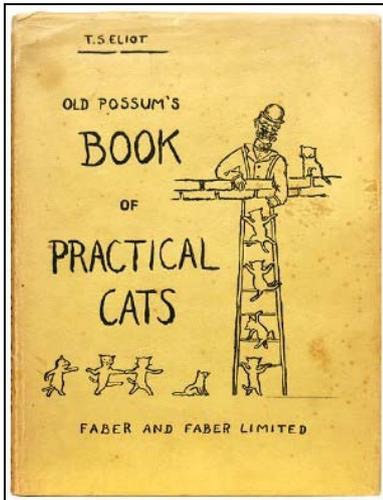
Ole!

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 B – THE MAKING OF CATS



Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats
1939 book cover.

Cats is a musical based on the book *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* by poet T. S. Eliot. This book is a collection of poems about **feline psychology and sociology**. He wrote the poems during the 1930s as letters to his godchildren. They were published in 1939.



T. S. Eliot

In 1954 Alan Rawsthorne converted six of the poems for speaker and orchestra, in a work called *Practical Cats*. Then, the poems were made into songs in the musical *Cats* by **Andrew Lloyd Webber**.



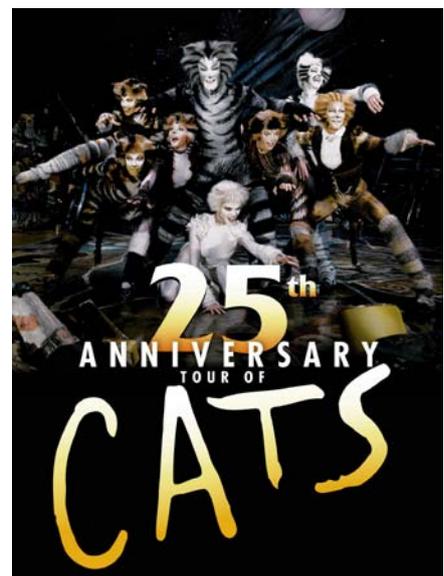
Cats poster.

The musical first opened in the **West End** in 1981 and then on **Broadway** in 1982. It won numerous **awards**, including the Olivier Award and the Tony Award for Best Musical. The London production ran for 21 years and the Broadway production for eighteen years. Both productions are **historical long-run records**.

Cats has been performed in more than **20 countries** and in about 250 cities (Buenos Aires, Seoul, Helsinki, Singapore, etc.) and has been translated into more than **20 languages**. They also recorded a **video** in 1998.

It has become one of the world's best loved musicals. With magnificent music, including the top hit song "Memory", an imaginative **set**, inspired **choreography** and magnificent **costumes**, *Cats* is a brilliant singing and dance show.

Cats has a historical long-run record.



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)