

IRISH MUSIC

Aims

- To provide an introduction to Irish music
- To present examples of notable Irish singers and groups and their work
- To participate in two exercises related to specific songs with a focus on literacy skills development

Objectives

- To state the names of some well known Irish singers and groups
- To identify typical instruments played by traditional Irish musicians
- To answer questions about the lyrics of the song *Ordinary Man* by Christy Moore

Traditional Irish Music

Fiddle (violin) Flute & whistle Uilleann pipes Accordion & concertina
Banjo Guitar Bodhrán (drum) Harmonica Harp



What Irish singers and groups do you know?

Clannad

- Traditional Irish, rock
- New Age (easy listening, peaceful music)
- Otherworldly, spiritual sound
- Irish language recordings
- ‘Theme from Harry’s Game’ composed for a British TV drama (1982)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KpNzaIFKPo>
- Other notable songs: Newgrange, In A Lifetime, Dúlamán

Christy Moore 1945

- Irish folk singer, songwriter and guitarist
- Social and political commentary in his music
- ‘Ordinary Man’—song about unemployment
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Llh5dUOz824>
- Other notable songs: The Voyage, Lisdoonvarna, Ride On



‘Ordinary Man’

- 1.What makes the speaker in this song an ordinary man?
- 2.How does the speaker feel about his situation?
- 3.What do you think is the main theme of the song? Explain your answer.
- 4.What feelings does this song evoke in you? Explain your answer with reference to the lyrics.
- 5.Explain why you like or don’t like this song. Refer to both lyrics and music.

'Ordinary Man'—Another set of questions

1. Select two images from the song that appeal to you. Explain their appeal.

Image one:

Image two:

2. What does this song say about being unemployed?

3. Write a personal response to the theme of the song.

4. Describe the mood or tone of the song.

Thin Lizzy

- Irish rock band
- Known for its gifted guitarists and multiracial members
- Influences include blues, soul music, rock and Irish folk music
- 'Whiskey in the Jar'—traditional Irish folk song
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyQ-tScuzwM>
- Other notable songs: The Boys Are Back in Town, Jailbreak

The Dubliners

- Irish folk band
- Irish folk songs, political songs, traditional Irish ballads and instrumentals
- 'Black Velvet Band'—traditional Irish folk song
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBRQM0vErH8>
- Other notable songs: Whiskey in the Jar, The Wild Rover, Molly Malone