



**Year 11 Transition  
Performing Arts  
Workbook**

# INITIAL INVESTIGATIONS

What are the key features of Musical theatre?

Create a mind map that details the key features of musicals.



## Types of Musical Theatre songs

Research the following types of Musical Theatre song:

SOLO-CHARACTER SONG -

DUET -

ACTION SONG -

CHORUS/PRODUCTION NUMBER -

## **Rogers and Hammerstein**

**Research one of the following musicals written by Rodgers and Hammerstein:**

- The Sound of Music
- South Pacific
- The King and I
- Carousel

**Summarise your investigation producing:**

- A brief synopsis of the plot
- A brief description of the lead and supporting characters
- A list of musical numbers (indicating if they are solos, duets or chorus numbers)
- An account of any interesting features, e.g. extended dance pieces



**Watch a production of any piece of musical theatre**

Choose two contrasting musical numbers from the show and comment on the style of singing and dance used.

Consider two main characters. How do the musical numbers they perform in reflect their different characteristics?

How do the musical numbers relate to the plot of the show? Which numbers are reflective and which move the plot along?

## **British Musicals**


Research one of the following musicals and answer the questions below:

- The Boyfriend
- Oliver
- Blood Brothers
- The Rocky Horror Show
- Billy Elliot

<p>What are the main elements for the show, e.g. style of the music, use of movement and dance, plot, characters, other interesting characteristics?</p>	
<p>What are the show-stopping numbers?</p>	
<p>What is the musical about? Write a brief synopsis of the plot.</p>	

## Songbook Musicals

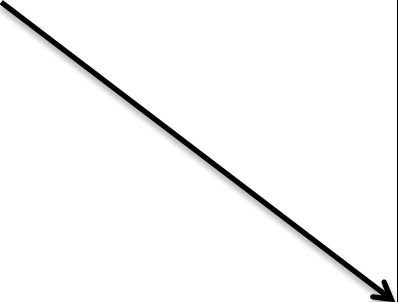
Match the songbook musicals with the artist or group whose music is used in the score.

Mamma Mia		Boney M
Sunshine on Leith		Queen
Daddy Cool		ABBA
Jersey Bots		Take That
We Will Rock You		Buddy Holly
Buddy		The Proclaimers
Never Forget		Dolly Parton
Nine to Five		Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons

## Vocal Music

**Number and types of voices.**

Match the terms in the left column with the descriptions on the right by pointing arrows.

Solo		Low female voice
Bass		Piece for two voices
Duet		Piece for many voices
Alto		High female voice
Quartet		Low male voice
Tenor		Piece for four voices
Chorus		High male voice
Trio		Piece for three voices
Soprano		Piece for one voice

## **Styles of singing**

Suggest the name of a musical that includes the following style of singing:

<u>Style</u>	<u>Musical</u>
Pop	
Rock	
Operatic	
Jazz	

Research the following three different musical numbers and comment on the following features of each using the table below:

- a) The number and types of voices that can be heard, e.g. duet for a soprano and a tenor
- b) The style of singing, e.g. operatic, pop, rock
- c) The type of musical accompaniment, e.g. full orchestra, small ensemble
- d) The overall effect of the vocal work and the accompaniment, e.g. What mood is created?

**Piece 1: The Barber and his Wife - *Sweeney Todd***

**Piece 2: You Can't Stop the Beat – *Hairspray***

**Piece 3: Summertime – *Porgy & Bess***

**Evaluation:**

- Which piece did you like best and why?
- How did the style of the vocal performance and the accompaniment help to convey the meaning and mood of the song?



## West End Musicals

- What musical theatre productions have recently been staged in London's West End?

- What touring productions have recently or will shortly be visiting your region?

**Produce a fact sheet about a chosen production (preferably a musical that has not yet been mentioned). You should include the following information:**

- Who wrote the music/lyrics?
- When was the show written?
- Is the production a 'new' show (e.g. *Wicked*) or a revival (e.g. *The Sound of Music*)?
- What are the 'show-stopping numbers'?
- Write a brief synopsis of the plot.

## **Musical Theatre Performers**

### **What makes a successful musical theatre performer?**

The following performers have (or have had) successful careers in musical theatre:

- Julie Andrews
- Nathan Lane
- Hugh Jackman
- Elaine Paige
- Liza Minnelli
- Maria Friedman
- Ruthie Henshall
- Michael Ball

Research and create a profile of one of these performers. Include the following information:

- Details of their training, career, live shows and/or filmed musicals they have performed in, etc.
- Performance skills they are known for, e.g. are they known mainly for their singing or as a dancer or comedy performer?
- Try to find out how they first became involved in musical theatre.

## **The Origins of Musical Theatre**

Musicals are often linked with America but Musical Theatre actually has its roots in the early operettas of the UK – Gilbert & Sullivan.

**Research and provide details on the following areas of Musical Theatre, including information such as:**

- Key dates
- Names of musicals
- Main features and characteristics

<b>Operettas</b>

<b>Opera</b>

<b>Musicals</b>