

**MUSIC QUIZ**

This is a **listening game** to practise **intensive listening** skills. It can be done during or after *Opportunities Pre-Intermediate* Module 7.

**Materials:** None for student (teacher uses quiz items below for reading aloud).

**Time:** 10-15 minutes

**Step 1:** Divide the class into two or three teams.

**Step 2:** Explain the game. You begin reading an item connected to the theme of music or dance to the whole class. As you read, students are given more detailed information about the subject of the item. There will be vocabulary that they don't know, but tell them to listen for important specific pieces of information. When a student thinks he/she knows who or what you are talking about, he/she calls out the answer. If he/she is correct, award a point to that team. You should ignore wrong guesses. The team with the most points at the end is the winner.

The authors would like to acknowledge Neville Britten for the idea of this game. See *Who Knows?* by Neville Britten, (Nelson 1990).

**Quiz Items for the Teacher to Read Out**

(The answers are in brackets at the end of each item)

**1** First I'm going to talk about a singer. He was born in Mississippi in 1935. His first jobs were as an usher in a cinema and then a truck driver. He signed a recording contract in 1955 and immediately became a rock and roll sensation. He served in the American army for two years. He appeared in over thirty films. In his later life he suffered from ill health and weight problems. He died in 1977 and is remembered as the King of Rock and Roll.

**(Elvis Presley)**

**2** This is now a dance, a modern ballroom dance. It appeared in the early twentieth century. A man and a woman perform the dance together, and when it was first performed, many people thought it was not respectable! The couple take long steps and you need a lot of space to do this dance. It became very popular in Latin America, especially in Argentina.

**(The tango)**

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**3** Here is some information about a composer. He was born in 1756, in Salzburg. He was educated by his father, Leopold. By the age of six he was an accomplished performer on the clavier, violin, and organ and went on tours of Europe. By the age of fourteen he had written sonatas and operas. Although he wrote some of the finest and most famous music of the eighteenth century, such as *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and several truly great concertos and symphonies, he died in poverty in 1791. Only a few friends came to his funeral and his burial place was unmarked.

**(Wofgang Amadeus Mozart)**

**4** Now, a musical instrument. This is a stringed instrument, thought to be an Italian invention of the early eighteenth century, though it was later developed in other parts of Europe. It was based on the harpsichord, but differs from that instrument because when you play the keyboard small hammers hit the strings. The white keys are made of ivory and the black keys ebony, though nowadays plastic may be used. Foot pedals can also change the quality of the sound. Today there are two types of this instrument – the ‘grand’ and the ‘upright’. This instrument is used in all styles of music, from classical and jazz performers to modern pop singers such as Elton John.

**(The piano)**

**5** Now a singer who is also a great football fan! He made his debut in London in 1965. He mainly sings opera. He is from Italy and, along with Luis Carreras and Placido Domingo from Spain, is one of the world’s most famous and popular tenors.

**(Luciano Pavarotti)**

**6** Now I’m going to talk about a traditional song *and* dance. Both the words to the songs and the music are improvised within traditional rhythms and structures. The dances that accompany the songs are performed by men or women or both together, and these also have improvised steps. The dance form *may* have originated in India. Performances are often accompanied by hand claps and shouts, and since the nineteenth century the songs have mainly been performed on guitar. You are most likely to see and hear this music in southern Spain.

**(Flamenco)**

**7** And now an American pop singer. She was born in 1958 into an Italian family and first trained as a dancer. She began recording in the early 1980s and her first big hit was in 1983, a song called 'Holiday'. She has also starred in a few films. Her albums, such as 'Like A Virgin', have sold millions of copies. By the 1990s, she was the best-selling female performer of all time.

**(Madonna)**

**8** Now another woman, this time an opera singer. She was born in New York in 1923 into a Greek family – her real name is, in fact, Maria Kalogeropoulos. She studied opera in Athens and later became one of the leading soprano singers at La Scala in Milan. She died in 1977.

**(Maria Callas)**

**9** And now another musical instrument. It is made of wood, with a small sound box and short neck. It has four strings which are usually played with a bow. Two very famous (and expensive!) makes of this instrument are Stradivarius and Guarnerius. Two great virtuosos are Paganini, from the nineteenth century, and Yehudi Menuhin, from the twentieth century. Though mainly thought of as a classical instrument, it is also played by folk and jazz musicians. One of the best virtuosos in jazz was Stephan Grappelli.

**(The violin)**

**10** Now I'm going to talk about a British singer and songwriter. He was born in 1940 in Liverpool, England, and met his songwriting partner, Paul McCartney, while at school. Together they formed the most successful pop group in history, The Beatles. The singer I'm talking about left The Beatles in 1969 and followed a solo career. Tragically, he was shot dead by a fan in New York in 1980.

**(John Lennon)**