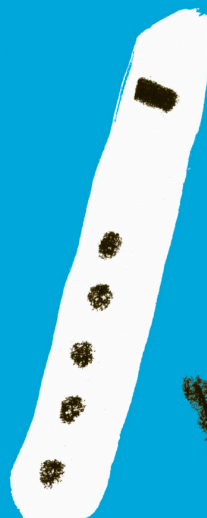


# BUSY LITTLE FINGERS



Learn about 10  
need-to-know  
GENRES



Eva Wong Nava  
Eleonora Marton



# BUSY LITTLE FINGERS

MUSIC

BIG PICTURE PRESS

First published in the UK in 2024 by Big Picture Press,  
an imprint of Bonnier Books UK

4th Floor, Victoria House  
Bloomsbury Square, London WC1B 4DA

Owned by Bonnier Books  
Sveavägen 56, Stockholm, Sweden  
[www.bonnierbooks.co.uk](http://www.bonnierbooks.co.uk)

Text copyright © 2024 Eva Wong Nava

Illustration copyright © 2024 Eleonora Marton

Design copyright © 2024 Big Picture Press

Published by arrangement with Debbie Bibb Agency.

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

All rights reserved

ISBN 978-1-80078-645-5

This book was typeset in Eleonora Brush 2019 and Eleonora Pencil 1.  
The illustrations were created with acrylic paint, charcoal, felt pens,  
collage, rubber stamps, digital colouring.

Edited by Joanna McInerney

Designed by Winsome d'Abreu and Melissa McInerney

Production by Ché Creasey

Printed in China



# BUSY LITTLE FINGERS



Eva Wong Nava  
Eleonora Marton



B P P



**6 HELLO, MUSIC!**

**CLASSICAL 8**

**12 OPERA**

**JAZZ 16**

**20 SOUL**

**BLUES 24**

**FOLK 28**

**32 COUNTRY**

**ROCK 36**

**40**

**POP**

**44 HIP HOP**



# HELLO, MUSIC!

Music  
is a language  
Like French,  
Italian and  
Mandarin.

It is a language that everyone can understand.

Music is all around you.

It's in the da-dub, da-dub of a beating heart.

It's in the pitter-patter of the pelting rain.

It's in the chirp-chirp  
of birdsong.

Music  
speaks in

beats,  
rhythms  
and notes.



# CLASSICAL

Scales!  
Instruments!  
Orchestra!

Classical music was the popular music of the day, many hundreds of years ago.

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH, LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN and WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART were composers who wrote classical music. But not all composers were men from Europe. KIKUKO KANAI from Japan was an award-winning composer who made music during the 20th century.

Composing classical music takes careful planning. Notes must follow patterns and rules. Composers need to consider which instruments play first and what melodies they should make.

The harp, violin and piano are instruments that pluck at the heartstrings of the audience. These string instruments make melodious and peaceful sounds. But classical music is played all over the world on different types of instruments.

In India, the zither is plucked.  
In Japan, they play the shamisen.  
In Java, we hear the gamelan.

These instruments are still being used today at concerts attended by kings and queens, children and parents, women and men, around the world.







VIVALDI'S FOUR SEASONS  
IS A FAMOUS PIECE OF  
CLASSICAL MUSIC. EACH  
SECTION, OR CONCERTO,  
REPRESENTS A DIFFERENT  
SEASON – SPRING, SUMMER,  
AUTUMN AND WINTER.

IF YOU WERE TO COMPOSE  
A PIECE OF CLASSICAL MUSIC  
AND MAKE IT SOUND LIKE A  
SEASON, WHAT WOULD SPRING  
SOUND LIKE TO YOU?  
OR WINTER?

# OPERA



When we sing,  
we are using the first natural  
instrument – our voice. When voice and  
instruments work together, we create  
operal Opera is a dramatic performance.

Singers were dressed in elaborate  
costumes to perform on stage. It was a  
popular form of entertainment in Italy  
in the 17th century.

Today, opera is performed  
on stage in grand theatres,  
at home for important  
folks or on the streets.

The songs can be sung in  
Italian, French, German or  
Chinese. It all depends on  
what you like and where in  
the world you're going to  
when you attend the opera.

Voice!  
Diva!  
Drama!

MARIA CALLAS was a diva with a soprano that melted hearts.  
LUCIANO PAVAROTTI had a tenor that made people cry when he sang  
an aria. JANAI BRUGGER is an American soprano who captures the  
hearts of fans around the world with her magnificent voice.

ARIA: A SONG SUNG SOLO.  
SOPRANO: A HIGH FEMALE (OR BOY'S) SINGING VOICE.  
ALTO: A LOW FEMALE (OR BOY'S) SINGING VOICE.  
TENOR: A HIGH (ADULT) MALE SINGING VOICE.  
BASS: A LOW (ADULT) MALE SINGING VOICE.



LET'S EXPLORE YOUR  
VOCAL RANGE!



FOLLOW THIS CHART WITH YOUR  
VOICE, SINGING EACH NOTE AS  
YOU GO. SING FROM LOW TO HIGH.  
SING YOUR HEART OUT!



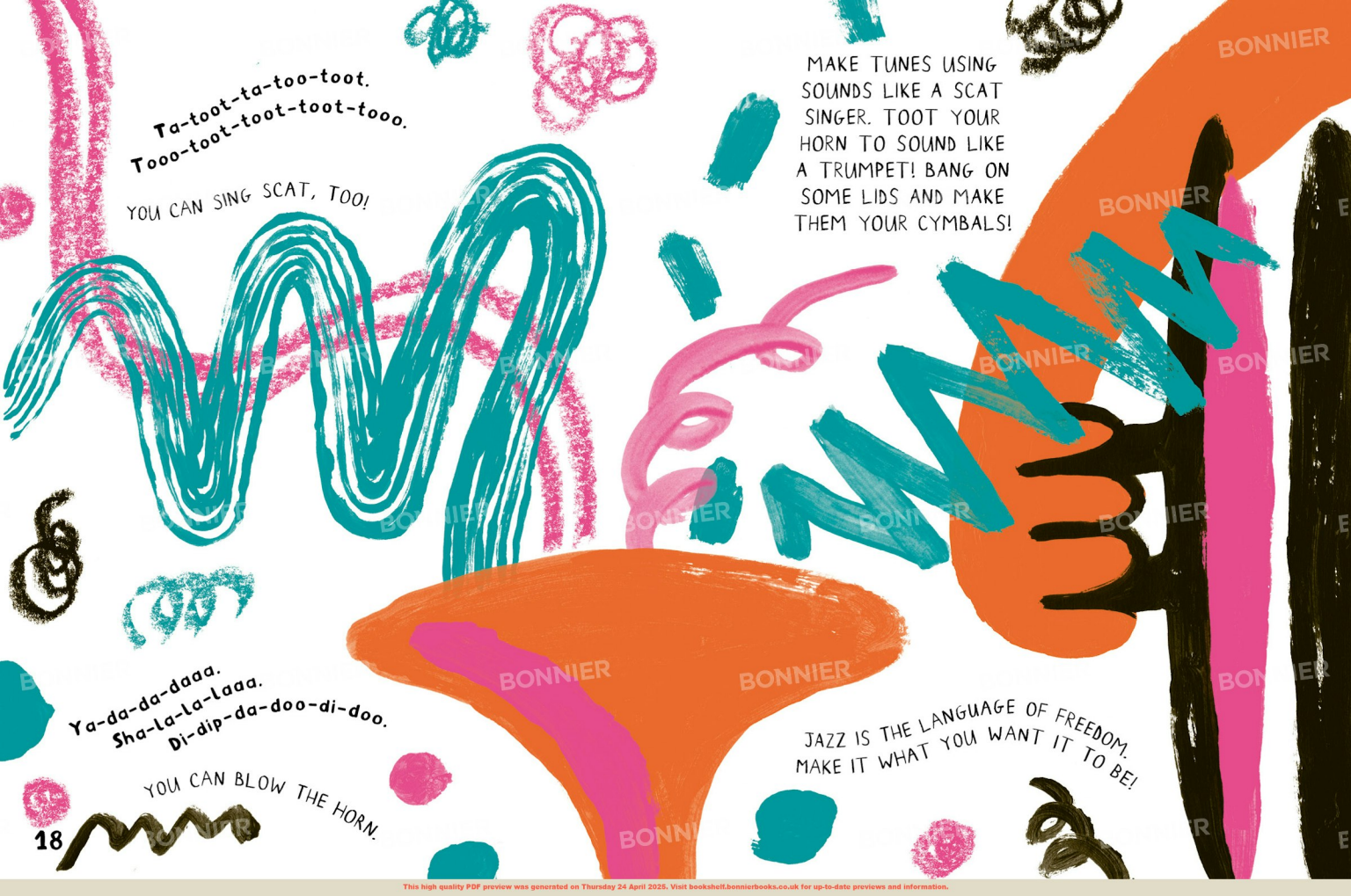


Jazz came from New Orleans in America around the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is still heard today because it is **COOL!** You'll know it's jazz because the beats in the music are irregular. Jazz is syncopated (sink-o-pay-ted) – it makes you swing and sway.

Jazz was created by African Americans living in New Orleans. **ELLA FITZGERALD** sang the blues, sharing heartache and joy with words. **LOUIS ARMSTRONG** crooned skat, making words up as he sang along. **JOHN COLTRANE** blew the saxophone, bringing this wind instrument to life. **MILES DAVIS** worked the trumpet.

Bebop, blues, rap and rock have all been influenced by jazz.





Ta-toot-ta-too-toot.  
Tooo-toot-toot-toot-tooo.

YOU CAN SING SCAT, TOO!

MAKE TUNES USING  
SOUNDS LIKE A SCAT  
SINGER. TOOT YOUR  
HORN TO SOUND LIKE  
A TRUMPET! BANG ON  
SOME LIDS AND MAKE  
THEM YOUR CYMBALS!

Ya-da-da-daaa.  
Sha-la-la-laaa.  
Di-dip-da-doo-di-doo.

YOU CAN BLOW THE HORN.

JAZZ IS THE LANGUAGE OF FREEDOM.  
MAKE IT WHAT YOU WANT IT TO BE!

Powerful!

Gospel!

Passion!

SOUL



Soul music takes a little bit of jazz, rock and country and mixes it with some hip hop, R&B and gospel to create its smooth sound.

It was created in the 1950s by African Americans living in cities like Memphis, Detroit and Philadelphia. Like opera, soul is all about using your voice in a heartfelt and meaningful way.

It is often sung in church.

RAY CHARLES sings soul. DIANA ROSS knows soul.

ARETHA FRANKLIN is often referred to as the Queen of Soul.


Soul uses lots of wind instruments too, including trumpets, saxophones and trombones. Toot toot!

Today, soul is everywhere. Japan has soul. South Korea has soul.



THE WORLD HAS SOUL.





SOUL COMES FROM  
DEEP INSIDE YOU.

FIND THE WORDS IN YOUR HEART THAT  
TELL THE WORLD HOW YOU FEEL AND  
USE YOUR NATURAL INSTRUMENT TO  
BELT OUT A SONG.

TRY THIS. WHEN YOU SING  
ONE LINE, ASK A FRIEND OR  
FAMILY MEMBER TO SING  
ANOTHER ONE BACK TO YOU.  
THEN DO IT AGAIN.

THIS IS CALLED  
**'CALL AND RESPONSE'**  
AND IS USED IN LOTS OF  
SOUL SONGS.

# BLUES

Happy-Sad!  
Deep!

Got the blues? There are days when we feel kind of sad. Some people call this the blues. The blues is a type of music that helps musicians to express what they feel deep down in their soul.

Rhythmic!

Blues songs are often accompanied by music from the saxophone, the guitar or harmonica. But the best instrument in the blues is the voice, without a doubt.

Like soul, the blues is music made up of other types of music. The blues often sound happy, but the lyrics say something else.

**BOB DYLAN** sings:

"Oh Mama, can this really be the end?"

**MEMPHIS MINNIE**

plays the guitar and sings her sorrows away because:

"Cryin' don't do no good."

**BESSIE SMITH**

is the empress of the blues and her powerful voice really captured those emotions.

"I'm so sad and lonely, won't somebody come and take a chance with me?"





DON'T BE SAD.  
DON'T BE DOWN AND OUT.

Write those blues down as lyrics and sing them instead. What words would you use to describe how you're feeling? If you have a harmonica, add that to the mix.



# FOLK

people!

Global!

Stories!

We don't know who started folk music — it has been around for a very long time. Our ancestors made music in caves. Later, singers shared their stories through ballads. Women twirled their skirts to the tunes they sang. Children clapped their hands, singing along. People played the guitar, harmonica and accordion.

Folk can be music without words. It can be a Christmas carol. It can be people breaking out in song as they work.

Folk songs are sung in many languages. They can be about all types of things. MIRIAM MAKEBA, a singer also known as Mama Africa, used folk songs to talk about injustice in South Africa. A-LIN, an Aboriginal Taiwanese singer, sings folk in Amis and Mandarin.

Folk is not in the past.  
Folk is in the present.



TRY TELLING A FOLK  
TALE THROUGH SONG.  
WRITE DOWN THE  
WORDS AND THEN  
ADD A MELODY.

YOU COULD  
EVEN TRY  
SWAPPING SOME  
WORDS OUT FOR  
A DIFFERENT  
LANGUAGE.



# COUNTRY



Country does not mean the countryside. Think rhinestones, cowboy hats and boots! Country is a type of music. It is a mix of gospel, cowboy Western and American folk music. Country is barn dancing.

YEE-HAW!

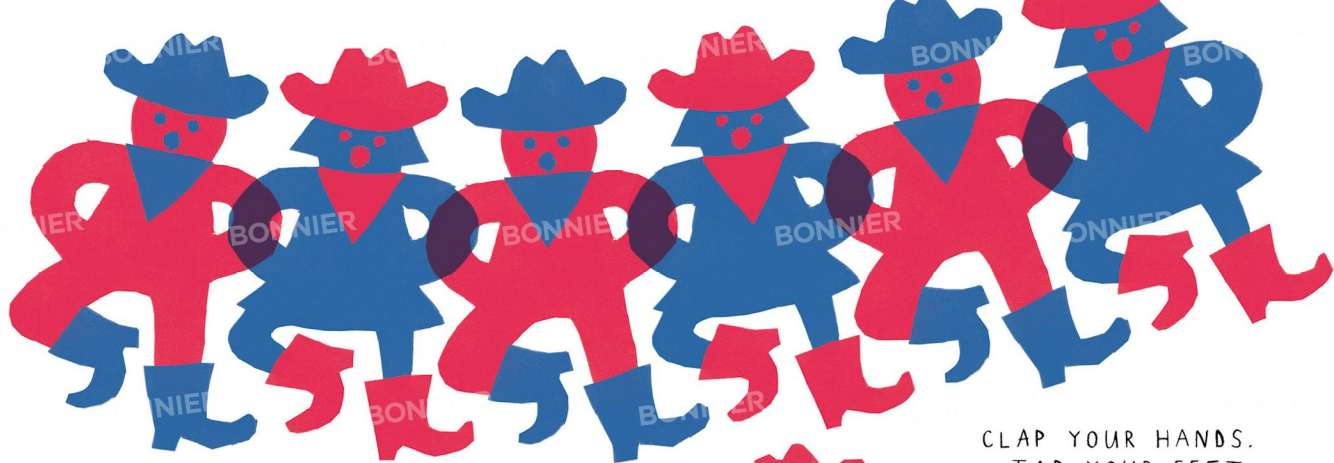
When we think of country music, we often think of Nashville, Tennessee in the USA, or DOLLY PARTON the famous country singer, but country can be sung in any country and by anyone.

There's J-country in Japan.

BOBBY CASH performs country music in India.

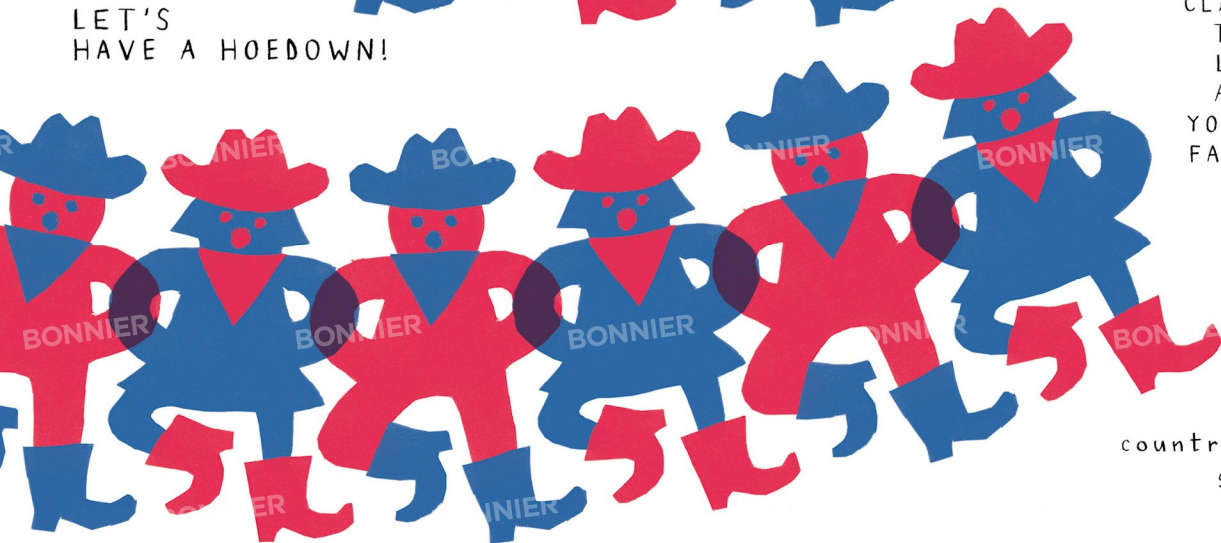
And SHANIA TWAIN comes from Canada.





LET'S  
HAVE A HOEDOWN!

CLAP YOUR HANDS.  
TAP YOUR FEET.  
LINK YOUR ARMS  
AND DANCE WITH  
YOUR FRIENDS AND  
FAMILY, SWINGING  
AROUND AND  
AROUND.



Don't like  
dancing much?  
Then twang a  
country tune on your  
guitar instead.



Rock is popular music in the USA and UK. Think The Beatles. The Rolling Stones. Queen. Think big, bold, confident performers, and lots of denim and leather.

WE WILL,  
WE WILL,  
**ROCK  
YOU!**

Grunge!  
Punk!

**ROCK**  
Electric!

Rock is noisy music. It is heavy metal. It is rock 'n' roll. It is electric. It is glam. It is grunge. It is punk. Rock music has roots in the late 1940s and early 1950s, and it exploded into many subgenres by the 1960s.

Rock is all sorts of music. It is contemporary. It is alt, new wave, raga. Rock is the electric guitar, drum rolls and funky piano.



START A ROCK GROUP WITH YOUR FRIENDS.  
WEAR A BANDANA LIKE JIMI HENDRIX AND  
ROCK OUT! PAINT YOUR FACE LIKE DAVID  
BOWIE, AND ROLL WITH IT!

YOU ROCK!

YOU ROLL!

YOU CAN ROCK AND ROLL!



# P

# O

# P

Pop music means popular music, and it was all over the airwaves in the mid 1950s in the UK and USA. It still is today.

Catchy!

Danceable!

Fun!

Pop music is catchy, rhythmic, and it makes the charts. Any song can be a popular song. It's the song that everyone is listening to – and singing and dancing to!

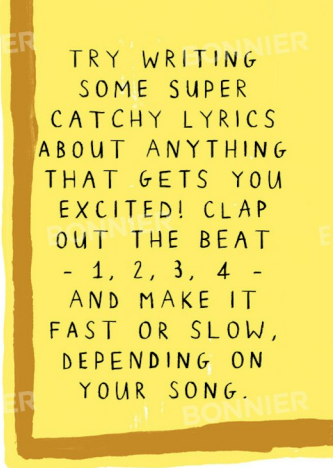
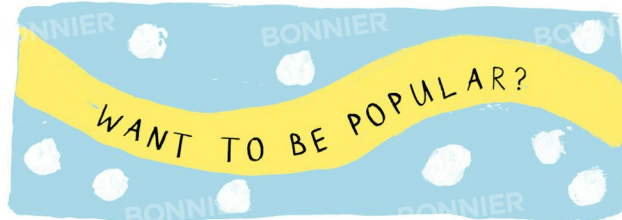
Popular music can be soul, country or rock. It can be K-pop (Korean Pop), J-pop (Japanese Pop) or Mando-pop (Mandarin Pop).

Pop music is global.

Bands like LITTLE MIX make popular music.  
TAYLOR SWIFT writes popular lyrics.  
RIHANNA sings popular songs.







# HIP HOP

Rap! Breakbeat!

Hip hop is a type of popular music created in the Bronx in New York City during the 1970s. It started when a local DJ (a disc jockey) started mixing samples of songs together. Hip hop DJs scrub and scratch records with a record player known as a turntable. They also add in new beats and effects to create all sorts of extra funky sounds.

The Bronx!

Some hip hop artists, like JAY-Z, rap, and some, like DOUG E. FRESH, beatbox. That's when they make percussion sounds with their mouths.

Breakdancing often accompanies hip hop music. Breakdancers can go from spinning on their heads to slipping and sliding, and even moving like a robot to the tracks!



LET'S TRY BEATBOXING. THIS SIMPLE  
METHOD WILL GET YOU STARTED.

CAN YOU SAY  
'**BooTs**  
AND  
**CATs**'?  
PLACE MORE  
EMPHASIS ON  
THE '**B**', '**C**'  
AND THE '**T**'s.  
THEN, TRY  
SPEEDING UP!

WHAT OTHER  
SOUNDS CAN YOU  
MAKE USING  
YOUR MOUTH?  
HOW DOES THE SOUND  
CHANGE IF YOU TIGHTEN  
OR RELAX YOUR LIPS?



# MAKE SOME NOISE!

Music has always existed.

Music is everywhere.

Music is for everyone.

It can make you laugh, or make you cry.  
It can make you sing, or get up and dance.

Make some noise.

**MAKE SOME MUSIC.**