

## Why are ABBA so famous?

### Mamma Mia!

In this unit of work the children will examine the structure of songs, focusing on the style of ABBA. Part of this topic focuses on learning basic instrumental skills by playing tunes in varying styles.

#### In this unit children will:

- Explore the music and styles of the 70s and 80s
- Focus on the style of ABBA and have the opportunity to listen to some of their music as well as research their background
- Consider the structure of songs
- Analyse performance
- Learn basic instrumental skills
- Play tunes in varying styles
- Have an introduction to the language of music, theory and composition
- Using scores / notation

#### Prior Learning

Other units that relate to the 80s Musical notation across all units

**Year 5** Livin' On A Prayer

**Year 5** Don't Stop Believin' (freestyle)

#### Cross Curricular Links

**PSHE** - Cultural awareness

**Geography** - Sweden

**Literacy** - Structure and style of songs

#### Key Vocabulary

**style** – all the different musical elements together

**structure** – how the piece of music is made up

**performance** – the act of playing and presenting a piece of music

**analyse** – to examine and look at something in more depth

**symbols** – how music is written down to read from

**instrumental** – performed on an instrument with no vocals

**theory** – understanding the background of the music and where it has come from

**composition** – how the music is created and formed

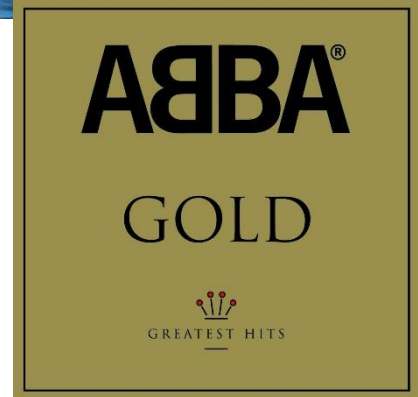
**score** – a written representation of music including all parts of a piece

**notation** – a series or system of written symbols used to represent different things such as a piece of sheet music

**trailblazer** – a person who is the first to do or achieve something

### Key Knowledge

- ABBA were trailblazers in pop music of the 70s and 80s.
- ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest in 1974.
- The band name ABBA was made up from the first letter of the band members names.
- The band members were two married couples. A lot of the songs they had written and sang were about themselves.
- The composition of ABBA's music is studied in universities.
- Their musical style is very distinctive.
- ABBA's early work was influenced by Swedish folk music.
- They are known for their disco and art rock styles, as well as the 'mini-musical' within a song.
- The band broke up in 1982 but are still very popular today – who knows if they will ever get back together?



### Key Questions

- Why are ABBA so influential?
- How did their music influence the music and fashion of the 1980s?
- What are the influences on ABBA's music?
- Why was winning the Eurovision Song Contest so important to the group?
- Which 21st century groups have ABBA influenced?
- Why is their music suited to musicals?