



**What will be our key questions?**

- Who were ABBA?
- How many singers were there?
- What are the style indicators of ABBA music?
- What are the style indicators of the song 'Mamma Mia'?
- What is the structure/form/shape of the song?



**About This Unit**

**Theme:** ABBA's music.

**Facts/info:** This timeless pop song is from ABBA's third album, ABBA, released in 1975. In 1999 the song was used as the title of a West End musical based on the songs of ABBA, and in 2008 the musical was turned into a film that eventually became the highest grossing musical of all-time. The song is about a woman who is continuously disappointed by her partner, but forgives him anyway. The song's name is derived from Italian where it is used in situations of surprise. It literally translates to "My mother".

ABBA was a Swedish pop group formed in 1972, whose members included composers Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus. The other two members of the group were singers Anni-Frid "Frida" Lyngstad and Agnetha Faltskog. The initials of their first names were used to make the name of the pop group, ABBA. They became one of the most commercially successful acts in the history of popular music, topping the charts worldwide from 1972 to 1982.

**Other ABBA songs/pieces:**

- 'Mamma Mia', 'Dancing Queen', 'The Winner Takes It All', 'Waterloo', 'Super Trouper', 'Thank You For The Music'

**Listen and Appraise**

**Structure:** Intro, verse, bridge, chorus, introduction, verse, bridge, chorus.

**Instruments/voices you can hear:** Keyboard sounds imitating strings, a glockenspiel playing as a keyboard, electric guitar, bass, drums.

**Find the pulse as you are listening.**

**Musical Activities (Using glocks / recorders)**

**Warm-up games** play and copy back using up to 2 notes – G + A.

**Singing** in unison

**Play instrumental parts** with the song by ear and/or from notation using the easy or medium part. You will be using up to 3 notes – G, A + B

**Improvise** using up to 3 notes – G, A + B.

**Compose** a simple melody using simple rhythms choosing from the notes G, A + B or G, A, B, D + E (the pentatonic scale)

**Vocabulary**

STRUCTURE	The arrangement of a song
IMPROVISE	Playing notes that are not written for you.
COMPOSE	Writing your own music.
PULSE	The regular heartbeat of the music; its steady beat.
RHYTHM	Long and short sounds or patterns that happen over the pulse.
PITCH	High and low sounds.
TEMPO	The speed of the music; fast or slow or in-between.
DYNAMICS	How loud or quiet the music is.
MELODY	The tune.
RIFF	An ostinato; a repeated chord progression, pattern, or melody, often played by rhythmic instruments.
UNISON	Two or more voices or instruments playing the same note simultaneously.

**Perform and Share**

What will your performance look like. Perhaps add some funky dance moves? Tell your audience how you learnt this song and why. Record the performance and talk about it afterwards.

**The performance will include one or more of the following:**  
 Improvisations • Instrumental performances • Compositions

**Key Thread:** To improvise, and compose a simple pop performance

★ ★ ★ Mamma Mia – Star Steps ★ ★ ★

Focus	Small Steps	Comment	
Listen and Appraise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can identify the piece's structure: Intro, verse, bridge, chorus, introduction, verse, bridge, and chorus.</li> <li>• I can identify the instruments/voices: Keyboard sounds imitating strings, a glockenspiel playing as a keyboard, electric guitar, bass, and drums.</li> <li>• I can find the pulse whilst listening.</li> </ul>	Self-Assessment : <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☺</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div>	Teacher Assessment: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☺</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div>
Musical Activities – Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can copy back, play, and invent rhythmic and melodic patterns.</li> <li>• I can demonstrate rhythm patterns</li> <li>• I can play G and sometimes A and read notes</li> </ul>	Self-Assessment : <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☺</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div>	Teacher Assessment: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☺</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div>
Singing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can sing in unison</li> </ul>	Self-Assessment : <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☺</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div>	Teacher Assessment: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☺</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div>
Playing Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can play accurately and in time, as part of the performance.</li> <li>• I can play G by ear</li> </ul>	Self-Assessment : <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☺</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div>	Teacher Assessment: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☺</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div>
Improvisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can improvise in the lessons and as part of the performance</li> </ul>	Self-Assessment : <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☺</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div>	Teacher Assessment: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☺</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div>
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can compose a simple melody using simple rhythms and use it as part of the performance.</li> </ul>	Self-Assessment : <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☺</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div>	Teacher Assessment: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☺</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div>
Perform and Share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I must listen to everyone in my group carefully</li> <li>• I can contribute to the performance by singing, playing an instrumental part, improvising, or by performing my composition</li> <li>• I feel confident and can confidently perform to an audience</li> </ul>	Self-Assessment : <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☺</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div>	Teacher Assessment: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☺</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 2px;">☹</div>