

### Popular music includes:

- **POP**
- **ROCK**
- **RAP**
- **HIP HOP**
- **REGGAE**

Plus many other genres, e.g. soul, ska, heavy metal, R&B, country, rock'n'roll.

**FUSION:** when two different styles are mixed together. This can be two styles of popular music e.g. 'rap metal', or could combine a popular music genre with other styles, folk-rock, gospel, world music, classical to create a new and interesting sound. **Jazz fusion** (jazz and pop) is a popular genre.

### Instruments

#### ELECTRIC GUITAR:

- **Lead guitar:** plays the melody/ solos/riffs
- **Rhythm guitar:** plays the chords/ accompaniment.

**BASS GUITAR:** plays the bass line.

**DRUM KIT:** provides the beat.

**LEAD SINGER:** the main vocalist.

**BACKING VOCALS:** singers who provide harmony.

Pop/rock groups may also include **acoustic** (not electric) instruments e.g. trumpet, trombone, saxophone and/or electronic keyboards/synthesizers.

### Features and techniques found in popular music

<b>Riff</b>	A short, repeated pattern.
<b>Hammer on</b>	Finger brought sharply down onto the string.
<b>Pitch bend</b>	Altering (bending) the pitch slightly.
<b>Power chords</b>	A guitar chord using the root and 5 <sup>th</sup> note (no 3 <sup>rd</sup> ).
<b>Distortion</b>	An effect which distorts the sound (creates a 'grungy' sound).
<b>Slap bass</b>	A percussive sound on the bass guitar made by bouncing the strings on the fret board.
<b>Fill</b>	A short, improvised drum solo.
<b>Rim shot</b>	Rim and head of drum hit at same time.
<b>Belt</b>	A bright, powerful vocal sound, high in the chest voice.
<b>Falsetto</b>	Male voice in a higher than usual range.
<b>Syllabic</b>	One note sung per syllable.
<b>Melismatic</b>	Each syllable sung to a number of different notes.
<b>A cappella</b>	Voices singing without instrumental accompaniment.

### The structure of a pop/rock song may include:

**INTRO:** short opening section, usually instrumental.

**VERSE:** same music but different lyrics each time.

**CHORUS:** repeated with the same lyrics each time (refrain).

**MIDDLE EIGHT:** a link section, often eight bars, with different musical ideas.

**BRIDGE:** a link/transition between two sections.

**OUTRO:** an ending to finish the song (coda).

\*You may also hear a pre-chorus, instrumental interlude or instrumental solo.

\*Strophic songs, 32 bar songs (AABA) and 12 bar blues are also found in popular music.

A typical rock ballad in verse-chorus form could follow the pattern:

- Intro
- Verse 1
- Chorus
- Verse 2
- Chorus
- MiddleEight
- Chorus
- Outro

### Technology

<b>Amplified</b>	Made louder (with an <b>amplifier</b> ).
<b>Synthesized</b>	Sounds created electronically.
<b>Panning</b>	Moving the sound between left and right speakers.
<b>Phasing</b>	A delay effect.
<b>Sample</b>	A short section of music that is reused (e.g. looped, layered).
<b>Reverb</b>	An electronic <b>echo</b> effect.