SONG OF THE DAY – 23 MAY

MAY2018 NZ MUSIC MONTH .CO.NZ

BATHE IN THE RIVER by Don McGlashan for The Mt. Raskal Preservation Society
2006 APRA Silver Scroll Award for outstanding achievement in the craft of songwriting
***Fun Fact :** Don McGlashan has won this Award previously with the all-time NZ famous song *Anchor Me.* In the 42 years history of the Silver Scroll Award only 8 people have won it twice, six men and two women.

Although this song was originally written for a scene in *"No.2"* - a film about the Auckland suburb of Mt. Roskill - it became a single release and a hit in it's own right and spent 22 weeks in the charts. The song has been re-recorded a few times by different artists with different instrumentation, but this one gives us the full original flavour.

1. What style is this music ?

2. What country is the birthplace of that style ?

3. Write down all instruments you hear in the order that they occur.

4. Write down anything you hear that is *synonymous* with the style (synonymous means closely associated) - be as accurate and descriptive as you can, more than just a word or two.

5. NCEA students should try to identify the *meter* or *time signature* (or both).

Listen : https://open.spotify.com/track/3VKlTdnQghO9FQbgSg3lxc?si=XwM2V2Y8SgydqbwQsh2JNg

Don't scroll yet……answers on pg 2.

1. Gospel. Gospel music is an African-Americal style used for the purpose of worship, however this song is written to be *secular* (non-religious).

2. USA, particularly the Southern States. The Southern States had the greatest proportion of African-American people living in them in the early and middle parts of last century, because these states were heavily used for labourers of the slave trade.

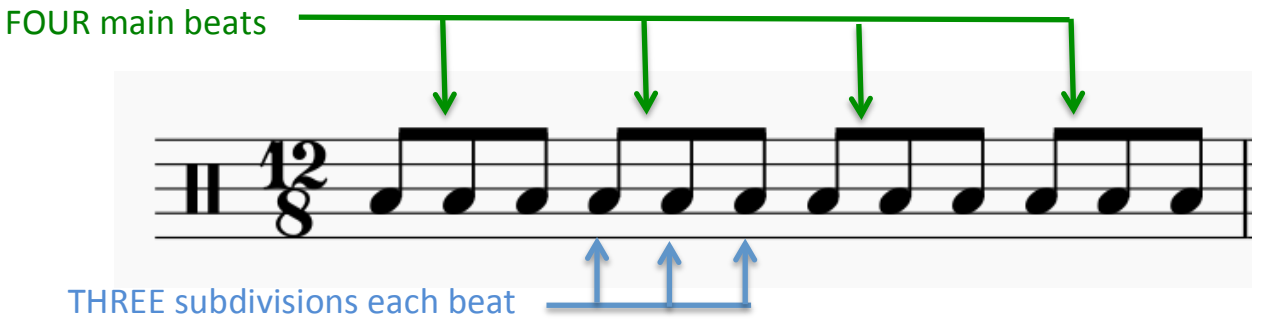
3. Piano, bass guitar, voice, drums and organ, choir, brass (trumpet plus euphonium), electric guitar.

4. • The piano playing technique includes small improvisations.
   • The *timbre* of organ and choir make it sound suitable for church/worship.
   • The lyrics and title. Although the song never mentions a god or religious figure the words can be interpreted as moving on to a better place with no troubles. A lot of Gospel songs do that.

5. The meter is compund quadruple. When recording or performing the song Don would call out before the start….
   "1-an-a, 2-an-a, 3-an-a, 4-an-a"

So there are FOUR beats per bar = *quadruple*. Other words from that family include duple and triple.
Each beat has THREE subdivisions =*compound*. Music with two subdivisions is called *simple*.

The time signature is $\frac{12}{8}$ with twelve, eighth-notes (quavers) - the grouping is 3 + 3 + 3 + 3



FOUR times THREE is **TWELVE**