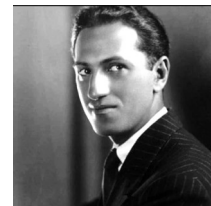


Gershwin

George Gershwin

George Gershwin was born September 26 1898 and died in 1937. He was an American composer and pianist whose compositions spanned both popular and classical genres. Among his best-known works are the orchestral compositions *Rhapsody in Blue* (1924) and *An American in Paris* (1928), the jazz standard *I Got Rhythm* (1930), and the opera *Porgy and Bess* (1935) which included the hit *Summertime*.



I Got Rhythm



Musical score for "I Got Rhythm" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with a bass line. Chords are indicated by letters (G, A, C, D, F, E) above the treble staff and below the bass staff.

Chords (Treble Staff): G A C D D C A G G A C D F D E E D E D C

Chords (Bass Staff): C G D G C G D G C G D G C G C



Summertime (from Porgy & Bess)

Musical score for "Summertime" in E-flat major, 3/4 time. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with a bass line. Chords are indicated by letters (E, C, D, A, G) above the treble staff and below the bass staff.

Chords (Treble Staff): E C E D CD EC A E E C D D C AC AC B

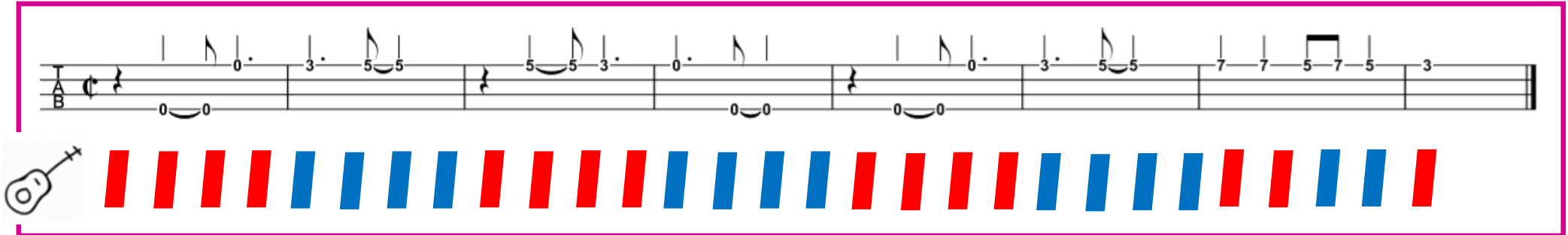
Chords (Bass Staff): A B C B A B C B D E F D E B

Chords (Treble Staff): E C E E D CD EC A E E G A G A C E D C A

Chords (Bass Staff): E A B C B A B C B C A D G A E A

I Got Rhythm—Ukulele

Have a go at playing the melody of 'I Got Rhythm' on the Ukulele. When it's fluent, team up and add the chords as a second layer. Keep the tempo steady!



Rhapsody in Blue is a 1924 musical composition by the American composer George Gershwin for solo piano and jazz band, which combines elements of classical music with jazz-influences. The composition was commissioned by the band leader Paul Whiteman. The piece received its premiere in the concert, An Experiment in Modern Music, which was held on February 12, 1924, in Aeolian Hall, New York City, by Whiteman and his band with Gershwin playing the piano.

The influences of jazz and other contemporary styles are certainly present in *Rhapsody in Blue*. Ragtime rhythms are abundant, as is the Cuban 'clave' rhythm, which doubles as a dance rhythm in the Charleston jazz dance.

Gershwin's own intentions were to correct the belief that jazz had to be played strictly in time so that one could dance to it. The rhapsody's tempos vary widely, and there is an almost extreme use of rubato in many places throughout. The clearest influence of jazz is the use of blue notes, and the exploration of their half-step relationship plays a key role in the rhapsody. The use of 'non-traditional' instruments, such as accordion, banjo, and saxophones in the orchestra, contribute to its jazz or popular style, and the latter two of these instruments have remained part of the 'standard' orchestra scoring. Gershwin incorporated several different piano styles into the work.



You're now going to listen to 'Rhapsody in Blue' and complete one of the two tasks below... We'll listen to the piece a few times so that you can add more details.

Rhapsody in Blue



Imagine the music you're hearing is the soundtrack to a silent film or cartoon. Describe the story as it unfolds in as much detail as you can. Include the setting / scenery, characters, actions, and themes.



It is said that Gershwin was inspired to write this piece after seeing a piece of art called 'Nocturn in Black'. Imagine you could see what this piece would look like. Close your eyes while you listen, what pictures and images are you seeing. Draw them in as much detail as you can, and don't forget to add colour.