

Comenius Project  
"Diversity Around us"

Programa de aprendizaje permanente

# Music and dances



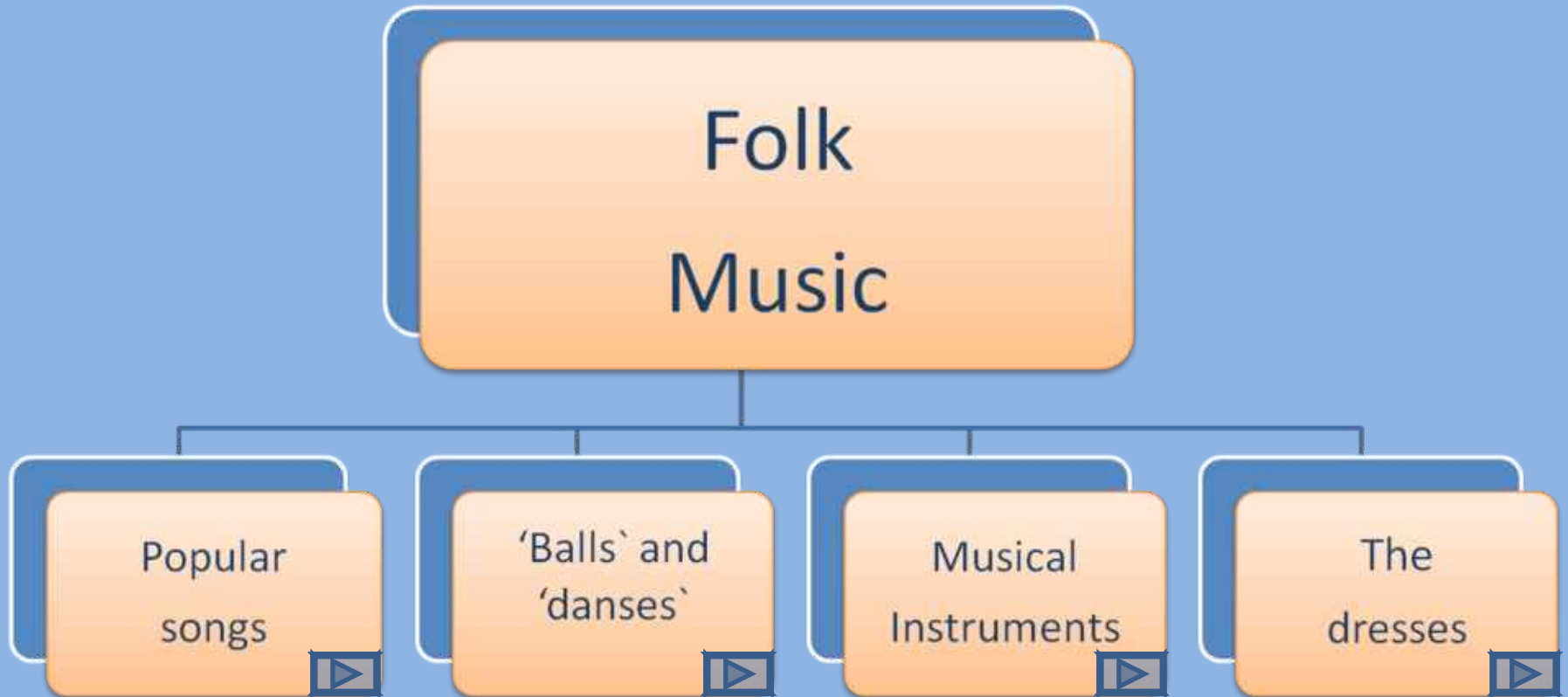
**IES JUNÍPER SERRA**  
Palma de Mallorca - Illes Balears  
Spain

## BALEARIC FOLK MUSIC

What is the Balearic folk music? It is the music that belongs to a determined community, and it is usually interpreted by amateur people and transmitted orally.



# Elements of Folk Music



# POPULARS SONGS

Popular songs are one of the most genuine cultural wealths from the Balearic Islands. They are authentic expressions of the experience and the feelings of our ancestors.

## ▪ Works songs

They were sung when working outdoors.

## ▪ 'Romancer'

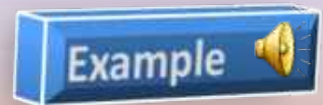
They tell a story.

## ▪ Songs for open-air fairs

The most typical dances and choreographies were born from these songs.

## ▪ Religious songs

## ▪ Humorous songs



# “BALLS” AND “DANCES”

In our language there are two different words to define the concept of “dance”. The difference between a “ball” and a “dansa” can be reduced to this explanation.

**Dance:** rehearsed and more formal.

**Ball:** Easy and Funy.

## Balls:

- • “Copeos”
- • “Mateixes”
- • “Boleros”
- • “Jotes”

## Dances:

- • “The Cavallets”
- • “The Cossiers”
- • “The Àguiles”



**The “Copeo”** is a dance with picaresque lyrics and a flirting dancing displayed by the men. For that reason it is considered to be a court-ship dance.



**The “Mateixes”** is a dance, with the same rhythm as the ‘Jota’. It is danced in pairs and in the past the music for the dancing was played by the typical popular orchestra formed by ‘flabiol’, ‘xeremies’ and ‘tambori’ players.



**The "Bolero"** is a popular dance, introduced probably from València and Alacant and that in Majorca was used for popular songs such as 'Parado de Valldemosa' and 'Parado de Selva'



**The “Jota”,** although is original from Aragon , it arrived in Majorca from Valencia.



**“Els Cavallets”** (‘The little horses’) are people who dance and perform in some popular religious dances. “Els cavallets” wear a horse-shaped disguise so as they look like jockeys and they perform different dances and coordinated movements.



## The “Cossiers”

All the groups are formed by six ‘cossiers’, a lady, who is a young girl and a demon.

Everybody follow the rhythm with arms in the air, waving handkerchiefs and bouquets of aromatic herbs.

The ‘cossiers’ dance around the lady and go after her.

The devil always turns over a circle and at the end the ‘cossiers’ kill him. This fact is a symbol of the lady’s victory.



## The Dance of the Eagles:

It is performed during the 'Corpus Christi' in a town called Pollença. Two girls are accompanied by Saint John.



## POPULAR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

The oldest and most typical instruments that are played in the the Balearic dances are the 'xeremies' (bagpipes), the 'flabiol'(flute), the 'tamborí'(drum) and the 'castanyetes' (castanets).



Xeremies



Flabiol



Tamborí



Castanyetes



**The “xeremies”:** The ‘Xeremia’ is the oldest and the most typical instrument of the region. It is a kind of bagpipe. The bagpipes have got 4 different parts:

- the blowstick (‘bufador’): a short wooden tube where the air is blown through.
  - the bag (‘sac’): a sheepskin or goatskin bag where the air is held.
  - the chanter(‘grall’): a wooden tube with holes also called melody pipe where the notes of the scales are played.
  - the drone: another bigger and longer wooden tube without holes where a low tonic note is produced and maintained throughout the song. This low note combine with the melody played with the ‘grall’.
- The ‘xeremies’ are usually decorated with flowers, coloured cloth and metal rings.



# The “Flabiol”:

It is a small wooden instrument, about 24 cm long, that emits very sharp sounds and can give all the notes of the scale, using both hands. It has got five holes in the front and three in back.





**The “tamborí”:** It is a small wooden drum, with a diameter of 25 cm and 21 cm deep, which hangs vertically through a strap from the ‘tamborí’ player’s right arm or from the player’s little finger, which is struck with a drumstick he's got on the right hand.



**Castanets** are a percussion instrument. The instrument consists of a pair of concave shells joined on one edge by string. These are held in the hand and used to produce clicks for rhythmic accents or a ripping or rattling sound consisting of a rapid series of clicks. They are traditionally made of hardwood. Castanets are often played by singers or dancers. In practice a player usually uses two pairs of castanets. One pair is held in each hand.

The name (Spanish: *castañuelas*) is derived from the diminutive form of *castaña*, the Spanish word for chestnut, which they resemble.



## THE DRESSES.

Here we include a series of pictures where the 'Pagès' and 'Pagesa' (Majorcan name for peasant men and women) clothes are showed. Formal and rural clothes.



# The end



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