



# FEATURE

## THE MUSIC OF BOLLYWOOD

Meets National Core Arts Anchor Standards 7-9, 11

### OBJECTIVES

- Perceive and analyze artistic work. (Re7)
- Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. (Re8)
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work. (Re9)
- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding. (Cn11)

### MATERIALS

- *Music Alive!* magazines (Vol.41 No.1)
- Computer or mobile device with internet access

### START

Ask your students to read “The Music of Bollywood” on pages 6-9. Then, go over the following highlighted words. **[This reinforces comprehension and vocabulary.]**

**BOLLYWOOD**- the Indian movie industry, based in Mumbai (Bombay)

**FILMI**- a film made in India

**SOUNDTRACK**- a recording of the musical accompaniment to a movie.

**PLAYBACK SINGER**- singer whose singing is pre-recorded for use in films.

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**- the person responsible for the musical aspects of a performance, production, or organization.

**LITERATI**- the person who writes the words to Bollywood songs

**LIP-SYNC**- to move the lips silently in synchronization with a pre-recorded soundtrack.

**NASAL**- (of a speech sound) pronouncement by the voice resonating in the nose

**MASALA**- a formulaic film movement in Bollywood that mixes genres for sensational effect

**COMPOSITION**- a work of music, literature, or art

**HINDI**- an Indic language of northern India, the fourth most widely spoken language in the world

**STREAMING**- a method of transmitting or receiving data (especially video and audio material) over a computer network as a steady, continuous flow, allowing playback to start while the rest of the data is still being received.

### DEVELOP

**As a class, listen to the following tracks in Hear the Music:**  
“Awaara Hoon” from *Awaara* by Raj Kapoor (1951)

How does this song make you feel? Why?  
Does the song sound like it contains any elements of Western music?

What instruments do you hear?  
Does the tonality of the singer sound nasal?

“Aaj Phir Jeene Ki Tamanna Hai” from *Guide* by S.D. Burman (1965)

How does this nasal singing sound different than Raj Kapoor?  
How many instruments can you identify?  
How would you describe the melody compared to the first listening example?  
Would this song have a different effect if it used different instruments?

“Talarirada” from *Rudra Veena* by Ilaiyaraaja (1988)

How does the style of this song compare to earlier Bollywood films?  
Is it similar or different?  
How does this song make you feel? Why?  
What instruments can you identify? Are any of them similar to earlier Bollywood music styles? Are any different?  
How does Ilaiyaraaja incorporate technology into this song?

### LEARN MORE

Watch playback singer Lata Mangeshkar's voice portrayed by an actor in “Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham”:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wn3RHVpfxE&t=24s>

How does the playback singer contribute to the Bollywood film? Does the actor do a good job lip-syncing to the recorded music?

Watch the official music video of “Mere Gully Mein”:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bK5dzwhu-l&t=117s>

How has Bollywood evolved with increased exposure to Western music and streaming platform/internet?

### CLOSE

Listen to “Jai Ho” by A.R. Rahman. Compare this Hollywood soundtrack song to the other Bollywood-centered songs.

### ASSESS

- Did the students read the article?**
- Did they review the vocabulary words?**
- Did they answer the supplemental questions?**