

Mardi Gras Music

Resource Pack

What is Mardi Gras?

Mardi Gras, also known as Fat Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday, Carnival, and even Pancake Day in the UK, is an annual festival which will next be celebrated on **16th February 2021**. It falls just before Lent and traditionally marks the last time for fun and feasts before 40 days of giving up something you really like to eat leading up to Easter.

Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday" in French.

It is traditionally a time for colourful celebrations. Festivities begin at the beginning of February, leading up to Mardi Gras day, and consist of parades, dancing in the street, costumes and masked balls.



The modern Carnival tradition developed in Europe in the Middle ages, and is celebrated mainly in Roman Catholic countries in Europe and the Americas today. Some of the most famous celebrations are held in Nice (France), Cologne (Germany), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and New Orleans (USA).



southamptonmusicclub.org

*This resource has been made available thanks to
Southampton Music Hub. All rights reserved.*

The mascot of Mardi Gras is the Jester or sometimes called The Joker.



Not everyone could afford to attend a fancy ball during Mardi Gras, but that did not stop people from enjoying the season. During the late 1800s, before jazz became popular, the music of Mardi Gras gathered influences from the sounds of the Caribbean, Africa, France, and Spain, which all had a lot of Native American chanting.

Brass music and rhythm and blues became leading sounds of Carnival. Today brass bands and marching bands are an important part of the parade.

Mardi Gras Music

- The music lko lko that you have listened to has a very strong beat for marching to
- The instruments are used to create **rhythm** rather than a tune or **melody**
- The singers sing in **unison** (all at the same time), in parts and also use **call and echo**.

I can hear clapping throughout which I think is the singers. Are you able to clap along when you listen to the song?

Mask Activity

Why don't you have a go at making your very own mask for Mardi Gras with the mask template? Print it out and decorate it! You could use the traditional Mardi Gras colours of purple, green and gold and add feathers, harlequin diamond shapes and anything else you can find.



southamptonmusicclub.org

*This resource has been made available thanks to
Southampton Music Hub. All rights reserved.*