



# First-year German • Individual Project (Kontext 17) “Unsere Musik – Our Music”

Description: Explore favorite music (or a new music of interest) in the target language, and write a message that describes it as part of achieving a specific purpose (joining a jam session, exchanging recordings, etc.)

Level: Context 17

Time: 4-5 hours over 2 weeks; additional 30 minutes to 1 hour for optional revisions after receiving score. Some of this is web-surfing and listening, NOT work!!

Due: 2 weeks from start of assignment, as announced by instructor

Note: This assignment is covered by the about of web translators and dictionaries (link: [http://web.pdx.edu/~fischerw/courses/firstyr\\_g/html/dictionary\\_translator\\_policy.html](http://web.pdx.edu/~fischerw/courses/firstyr_g/html/dictionary_translator_policy.html))

## Objectives

- 1) find out about another culture’s patterns of experiencing music of choice (as opposed to “official” music [=classical or traditional folkmusic], unless that is really the music of one’s personal choice);
- 2) learn music terminology *beyond* the minimal survival level (“song,” “acoustic guitar,” instead of just “concert” and “hear”);
- 3) learn and use terms for “to like”, and distinguish “like (to)” (to enjoy [doing]), “would like” (to request, desire), and “like” (such as, similar to); if possible: “like” in the slang sense of “well, like, you know”

## Procedure

- 1) Find and explore some target-language websites or equivalent print and sound resources which are about music in the target culture that resembles your favorite music. (If you don’t have much interest in music, or don’t want to reveal it, choose the favorite music of someone you care about.) One way to find internet resources is to do a search on the kind of music in combination with a useful word in the target language (example: “jazz”) and “deutsch”. Another is to follow the subject divisions of a large-scale search program. You can also go to the site <http://dmoz.org>, which is a very comprehensive registry of sites by language and topic. The continuation <...org/World/Deutsch/Kultur/Musik> will lead you to a link to many useful categories, including “Genres” and “Soundfiles”. Click on “Genres”, for example, and you’ll see a long list of possibilities (“country western,” “rap,” etc.). Another source are pages where people present their résumés with their personal interests; especially useful are pages where the résumé is in narrative form rather than as business-style lists with headings. A search under “Lebenslauf” (=résumé, CV) will yield many hits, but some of them will be employment ads that require a résumé. Try adding “über mich” (about me) or even just “ich” to the search combination. You could even add “Musik” to the search combination. You are strongly urged to use the internet as if you were pursuing your musical interest simply for your own purposes, rather than doing an assignment; try learning the language by doing that, instead of going to sources of language tools.
- 2) Fill out the “Preparation” worksheet. Try to do this early so that you can get help from your instructor.
- 3) Compose two messages (in either order):
  - a) In English, write a report (1-2 pages) about your research experiences and methods to someone you know who is interested in similar music and wants to emulate your experience, but does not understand German. Include a resource where you have to give some intensive help with language, even a short translation, such as song lyrics or the tidbits of personal information that a “fan” site or “fanzine” offers.
  - b) Come up with a specific reason why you might write about your music investigation to someone in a German-speaking country, such as looking for rare recordings, wanting to join a jam session, applying for a music scholarship. Then, in the target language, write up to a page (250 words), introducing yourself, telling what kind of music you like, why you like it, what you think of the similar music you found in the target culture, and why you are writing your message (not because it’s an assignment for a language course!). This will be a lot easier if you “steal” vocabulary well, especially from the website of people who do your kind of music. Doing the English report first may help you formulate your thoughts, though it will not work simply to translate parts of it.
- 4) Turn in your “Preparation Worksheet”, your English and target-language messages, and any support materials that would be appropriate to your message and your hope to learn about the music you like.
- 5) If your score on project is too low to suit you, revise it.

Looking for off-beat or just quaint German music? (as compared to your own favorite, which you think is normal or – Sixties talk here – “groovy” but other people think is strange or “square”, of course)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Project K17 "Unsere Musik – Our Music" – Preparation

This worksheet is intended to provide structure to your research activities and to help you find language that you can then apply when you write your research description and your message. During your research you will probably want to take notes in addition to what you write on the worksheet.

1. List here at least 3 websites or other music-related resources (music-store catalog, library book, etc.) that you found useful for this project. Give a short description of each (in English, if you want). Aim for these kinds of resources: lists of useful links (for example, clubs where that kind of music is played); personal information about people interested in the music (résumés, chatrooms / bulletin boards); detailed descriptions of the music (often on personal webpages, but also in chats or fan-group electronic newsletters or advertisements for bands); audio and visual resources (MP3 downloads, etc.)

URL or other identification	description
<a href="http://www.vista.wide.com/german/german_music">www.vista.wide.com/german/german_music</a>	Lots of different artists and soundclips
<a href="http://www.groups.yahoo.com/germancomp/folkbandmusic">www.groups.yahoo.com/germancomp/folkbandmusic</a>	Links to listen to different German folk groups
<a href="http://www.cnx.org/content/m11025/latest">www.cnx.org/content/m11025/latest</a>	Listen to folk songs with sheet music and lyrics.
<a href="http://www.hift-folksongs.de">www.hift-folksongs.de</a>	Good German folk music website

2. List here two pieces of music (online files, conventional recordings, musical scores) from the target culture that you found in your resources, and provide the sources

music (title, group, etc.)	source (URL, etc.)
Slowenischer Bawertanz	<a href="http://www.irenc-wien.at/volksmusikmidis/slowen.mid">www.irenc-wien.at/volksmusikmidis/slowen.mid</a>
Wenn der Frühling Kommt	<a href="http://cnx.org/content/m11025/latest/wenn%20der%20fruehling%20kommt.MID">cnx.org/content/m11025/latest/wenn%20der%20fruehling%20kommt.MID</a>

3. Using your resources (course materials, websites, and – as an exception to the usual “no-dictionary” policy – dictionaries), find expressions for “like” in the senses listed below. Write out the key term (“go for”), quote the surrounding language (so you can steal entire phrases or sentences [“I really really go for traditional Bluegrass”]), and provide the source (URL, probably) of the language found.

Just what I was looking for - good learning!

English word/phrase	key equivalent (core word)	surrounding language (a rich phrase or simple sentence)	source
to enjoy, find interesting, “go for,” etc.	mögen	Ich mag hip hop	<a href="http://www.faraPortal.de/fTopic3326-75.html">www.faraPortal.de/fTopic3326-75.html</a>
to request politely something you would like to have	möchten	Ich möchte die Gitarre	<a href="http://www.welchius-p.com/durthos/mena-valnits/ich-moechte-die-gitarre-sein/lyrics.shtml">www.welchius-p.com/durthos/mena-valnits/ich-moechte-die-gitarre-sein/lyrics.shtml</a>
to provide an example (“such as,” “for example”)	Beispiel	wie zum beispiel	<a href="http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Architektur">de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Architektur</a>
to state a similarity (“just like,” “close to”)	Ähnliche	Ähnliche Künstler	<a href="http://www.last.fm.de/music/The+Flaming+Lips/+similar">www.last.fm.de/music/The+Flaming+Lips/+similar</a>

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4. From your resources make two vocabulary lists of 10 or more items each. FIRST READ THE NOTES BELOW THE CHART.

useful general musical terms	
Zeitmass	laut
Tanzmusik	sanft
Unterhaltungsmusik	der Sopran
Diskussionsgruppe	musizieren
die Flöte	das Orchester
das Waldhorn	Schlagersänger
die Posaune	
die Geige	
das Blechinstrument	
das Holzblasinstrument	
der Trummelstock	

"juicy" words for describing your special kind of music	
Flügelhorn	lack of English equivalent means that I can't
Oom-pah	check your
Glockenspiel.	comprehension.
Meistersinger	But the selection of terms is
Volksmusik	ambiguous
die Gitarre	
Musiktage	
die MusikKapelle	
Schuhplattler	

Notes about searching for vocabulary: Expect to find most of your words right on the websites, and in some cases to have to understand them by context rather than looking them up in a dictionary or using the English version of a website. There are two reasons: 1) some of the words that are most useful may well not be in your dictionary; 2) words change meaning over time and space - your dictionary may not give the right word. If you do use an English-German dictionary, you must be cautious. After you find a word you think is the one you want, look it up in the German-English direction. Example: a "scale" in music is a "Tonleiter"; in measuring things, a "scale" is can be a "Waage" (for weighing things), a "Skala" (distance on a map), or a "Gebührenordnung" (table of financial charges). If you used one of those last three words in a conversation or message about music, only a native speaker of German with extremely advanced English skills would be able to decipher what you meant, and even then it might take quite a while to do that.

Write here for your instructor any questions or requests that will help you if you think you may need to revise after your project is scored and returned to you.

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Finding German music that you like isn't actually that different from finding American music that you like, except of course the language barrier. When you think about searching for American music, you'd most likely begin with an internet search site, and you'd search for terms that have to do with the type of music you like, such as techno or hip hop. If you were looking for German music online, what you could do is simply type in whatever type of music you're interested in with German in front of it, like German hip hop, or German folk music. This won't get you the absolute best results but it's a good place to start since the pages you get will probably be in English, so it will be easier to navigate. From here you should probably be able to search around and eventually pick up some German terms for the type of music you want. For example if you searched for German folk music in English you will most likely come across the word Volksmusik, which is a the German word for folk music. From here you can begin to search for actual German terms on the search engines, and that's when you should be able to find websites fully in German with German bands. This is when not knowing any German language could make your experience frustrating, since you have no idea what any of the words mean. It's important to keep in mind that many German websites are set up the same way English websites are, and you can take clues from words that sound just like their English equivalents. Musik means music, gitarre mean guitar, laut means loud, and so on. However you have to be careful that you don't mistake a German word for meaning what it sounds like in English when it means something completely different. Still, as long as you are experienced in looking for English music online then finding German bands should not prove to be too difficult, although it might take longer. Also beware of online translators, they won't know many modern words.

*nice advice  
about  
intuitive  
learning -  
about language,  
about culture,  
about music.*

*Yes!*

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Lieb eine Volksmusik spieler,

Hallo, und wie gehts? Ich bin ein studenten in Oregon. Ich kann die Gitarre spiele,  
 und ich mag alles Musik. Deutsche musik ist sehr gut. Deutschland hat viele hip hop  
 künstler, der zweite in der welt. Aber ich weiß Deutsche hip hop, und ich weiß nicht zu  
 viel mit Deutsche volksmusik. Ich mag Amerikanisches volksmusik, aber nicht alles. Ich  
 höre Deutsche volksmusik und ich mag das auch, aber nicht alles. Ich finde gut und  
 schlecht musik in allen Kategorien. Ich lerne die gitarre spielen für volksmusik, und ich  
 habe ein frage für dich. Ich habe <sup>gerne die gitarre 12/6</sup> kein gruppe für volksmusik spielen, aber du hast ein  
 gruppe für volksmusik spielen. Können wir spielen alles zusammen? Wir können spiel  
 sehr schön musik in ein gruppe mit vier oder fünf leute. Ich kann spiele die Gitarre oder  
 die Bassgitarre, aber ich kann spiele nicht ein Blechinstrument. Ich kann spiele der  
 Trommel auch, aber nicht so gut. Virklich wir können spiel alt volksmusic, und wenn das  
 hören wir gut, wir können neue musik machen. Können wir in einem musikfestival  
 spielen? Ich habe mit viele gruppe gespeilen, ich kann spiele musik in einem konzert mit  
 kein problem. Wie finden Sie das idee? Ich finde das schön.

Kann spielen

yes! this way!

also right

Vielen Dank

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