

Islam

Music used for worship in Islam is very different to the music used in other religions. It includes the call to prayer and the reciting of the **Qur'an** and contains only a single voice. It is focused on rhythm, the shaping of words and variations of tone in the individual's voice, rather than using any instruments or a singing voice.

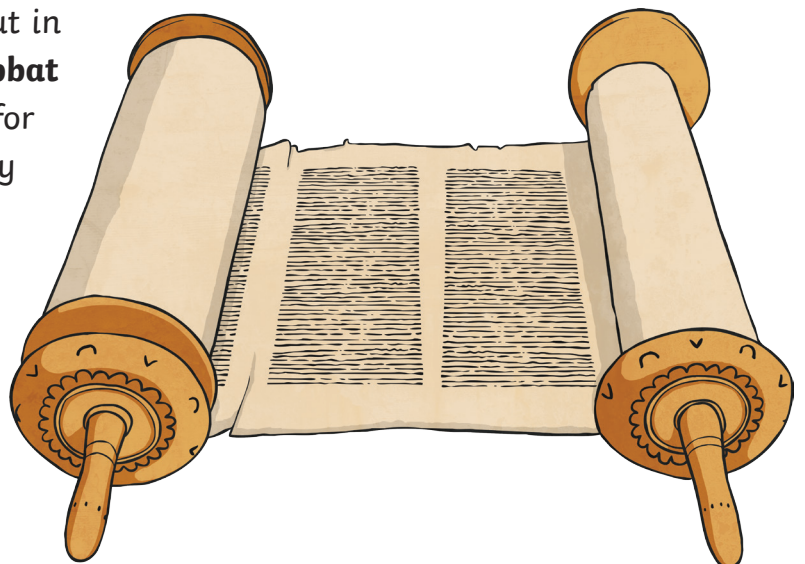


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Judaism

Music is a key part of Jewish worship. In a **synagogue**, parts of the service are done standing (to praise) and parts are in a bowed position (showing respect). Most of the service is chanted or sung. The reading of the **Torah** is chanted and prayers are said to different tunes depending on the time of year.

Some Jewish music uses instruments but in traditional communities, songs for **Shabbat** (the Sabbath) and other festivals are for voices alone as it is forbidden to play instruments at those times.



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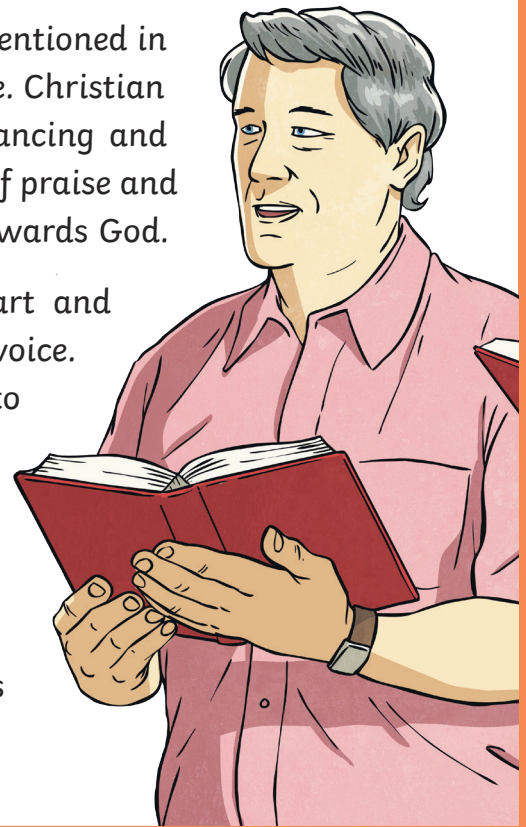
Christianity

Music is an important part of Christian worship. Praise is mentioned in the Bible many times, where it is presented as joyful and free. Christian worship includes hymns, psalms, instruments, kneeling, dancing and the raising of hands. Sometimes, this is done in an attitude of praise and sometimes, in humility; it portrays how worshippers feel towards God.

Christians believe that worship is an attitude of the heart and by singing together, they are worshipping God with one voice.

Church services often start with joyous praise, moving to quieter, more reflective moments. Singing is usually

accompanied by instruments. Some **denominations** are quieter, whilst some are more exuberant with members of the congregation dancing, clapping, shouting out and waving their arms in the air.



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Sikhism

Music is an important part of Sikh worship. The **Guru Granth Sahib** (the holy book) contains hymns which praise God, reveal his nature and give guidance. These hymns are written without spaces so that they cannot be altered. Many Sikhs memorise them as they are tricky to read. Instruments such as the harmonium, percussion instruments, cymbals, sitar and violin accompany **kirtan** (singing). The aim of Sikh worship is to give praise to God. Clapping and whistling are not allowed - only sounds which can be made by the voice.

Congregational worship at the **Gurdwara** is called **diwaan** and its purpose is to develop the spirituality of the individual, the community and to praise God. It includes congregational prayers, hymn singing and meditation on God's name.

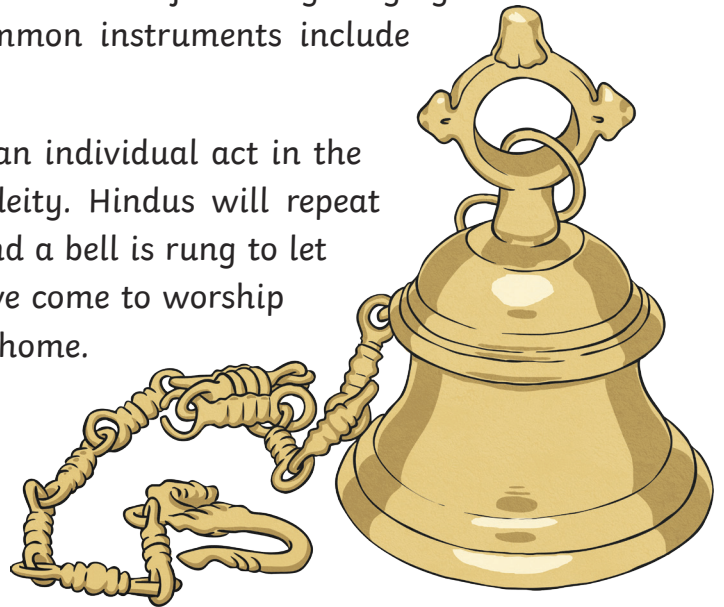


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Hinduism

Hindu worship (**puja**) may be through words, music, dance, silence and meditation. Indian classical music is part of worship as well as **kirtan** (repetition of mantras to the accompaniment of musical instruments) and **bhajan** (devotional song). **Kirtan** means glorification. Worshippers show adoration and love of God by singing **bhajari** (devotional singing or hymns). Common instruments include drums, hand cymbals and harmonium.

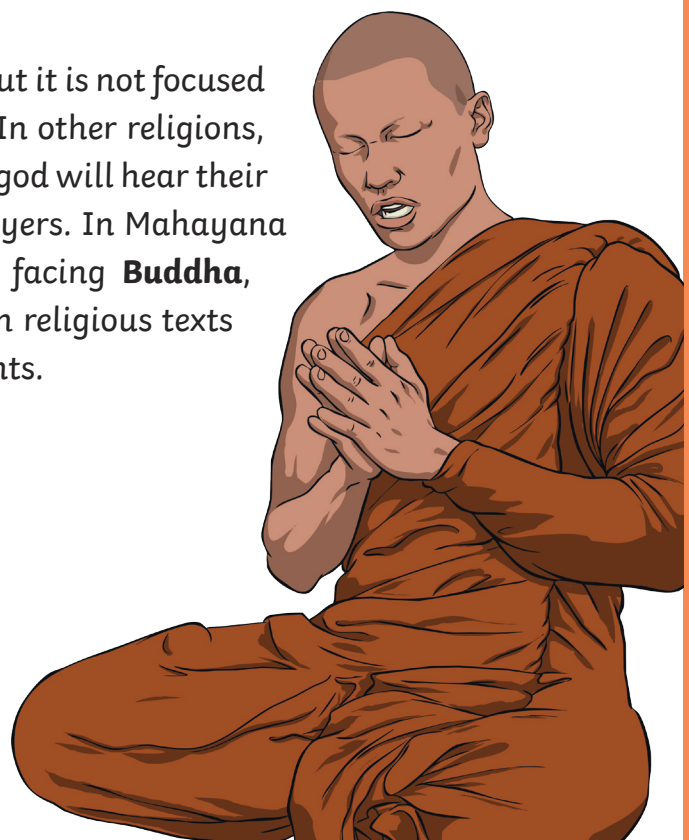
Hindu worship takes place in temples or as an individual act in the home. It involves making offerings to the deity. Hindus will repeat mantras and the names of gods/goddesses and a bell is rung to let the god know that they have come to worship and to invite them into the home.



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Buddhism

Buddhist worship shows respect and admiration but it is not focused on a god, making offerings or asking for favours. In other religions, these things are done as the worshipper feels their god will hear their praise, receive their offering and answer their prayers. In Mahayana tradition, worshippers sit barefoot on the floor, facing **Buddha**, chanting. They will listen to monks chanting from religious texts and this is sometimes accompanied by instruments.



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