

**200 YEARS OF AMERICAN MUSIC** (Assembly Program)  
*Glossary*

**acoustic guitar**

A six string guitar that is not amplified like an electric guitar. The sound is loud because the guitar is hollow.

**Appalachian Mountains**

A mountain range in the Eastern United States.

**bayou**

Swampy area that is common in Louisiana near the end of the Mississippi River delta.

**Bluegrass**

A type of music that comes from Kentucky where the grass is a blue-green color. Kentucky is also called the Bluegrass state. Blue grass music is also called Hillbilly Music or Old Time Country.

**Broadway**

A street in New York City that is famous for its musical plays.

**bugle**

A trumpet without valves played in the military.

**Cajun**

The name of a style of music and food in Louisiana.

**Charleston**

A city in South Carolina that is famous for a style of dance that was popular in the 1920's.

**fiddle**

A violin that is played in a "Folk" or "Bluegrass" style.

**Folk**

A style of music passed down more by singing to others than by written music.

**Gospel**

A religious style of music that originated with African Americans.

**hukilau**

A Hawaiian word for "party on the beach".

**jambalaya**

A spicy stew that consists of crawfish, tomatoes, and shrimp.

**Jazz**

A style of American music that has its roots in the African American experience.

**Midnight Ride of Paul Revere**

A poem written by a man named Henry Wadsworth Longfellow about 75 years after the American Revolutionary War.

**Mississippi River**

The largest river in America that runs through the center of United States of America.

**musical scale**

A series of notes that sound good when played together.

**Pacific Ocean**

The ocean to the west of California.

**Rocky Mountains**

A large mountain range in the Western United States.

**scat**

When singing Jazz the singer substitutes nonsense syllables for the words of the song and vocally tries to sound like a musical instrument.

**solo**

Performing alone.

**Stephen Foster**

America's first professional songwriter. He wrote many songs such as "Oh Susanna".

**Uncle Sam**

Another name for the U.S. Government, as if it was a person.

**washboard**

A board made of wood that was used a long time ago to wash clothes. It can also be used as a percussion instrument.

**Yankee Doodle**

During the time of the American Revolutionary war the British soldiers first sang this song to make fun of the American colonists. The British thought of the colonists as poor people who tried to act rich and fancy. A "Doodle" to the British was a fool. Yankee was the term for all Americans. To have him riding a "pony" instead of a horse was insulting. To mock the British soldiers the colonist took the song and made it their battle song - a song they would sing to cheer up the troops.