

## BALKAN BEATS



### YEAR 7 AND 8 – CURRICULUM GUIDES

#### AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

- Analyse composers' use of the elements of music and stylistic features when listening to and interpreting music.

#### INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

- MYP Performing Arts key and related concepts composition and expression p5.

### OBJECTIVE

To learn about a song by Mzaza, look for patterns in the music and learn about Balkan style.

### RESOURCES

Laptop connected to interactive display screen.

### BACKGROUND - ⌚ 5 min

Embark on a musical journey to Southeastern Europe. Students will learn a song featuring the rhythms of Turkish gypsies, Bulgarian dancers and Macedonian maestros. Ask students whether they have heard of music or traditions from these cultures.

Here is an excerpt from <https://www.britannica.com/place/Balkans>

The word Balkan is Turkish and means "mountain," and the peninsula is certainly dominated by this type of landform, especially in the west. The Balkan Mountains lie east-west across Bulgaria, the Rhodope Mountains extend along the Greek-Bulgarian border, and the Dinaric range extends down the Adriatic coast to Albania. By some definitions the region's northern boundary extends to the Julian Alps and the Carpathians.

### LISTEN AND DISCUSS - ⌚ 10 min

Use the link below to listen to the song "Stardust" with students. Listen out for, and discuss:

- Changes in tempo (speed)

- Accordion - features in Eastern European music
- Vocals in chorus begin fast and choppy and change to slower and more flowing
- Call and response between vocals and percussion of verses
- Vocal harmonies in the chorus
- Violin solo before the last chorus

### [MZAZA - Stardust \(Official Video\)](#)

### SING SOME OF THE CHORUS - ⌚ 10 min

Either teach the melody to the lyrics below by asking students to echo each line as you sing OR play the video again once or twice, encouraging students to join in the slower section of the chorus.

#### *Stardust - Second Half of Chorus*

Your love lifts me up  
Sets me free to the sky  
Just a cloud of stellar dust  
Milky way as my gown

### EXTENSION, TEMPO CHALLENGE - ⌚ 20 min

Ask students to help you type up the lyrics to the first half of the chorus as you listen again, beginning with "When I lay in the river". Then play that section of the song repeatedly to practice the fast section of the chorus - this will be a good way to have them focus carefully on listening to the music. You could have a contest to see who writes them down first! Finally, play the entire chorus repeatedly to join up the sections, then the whole song once more so that students can join in singing with the chorus when it occurs in the song.