🥁 🇬🇧 **Music for VE Day** 🇬🇧 🎺

This Friday we celebrate VE Day. You can find out more about what VE Day is here: https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48201749

Lots of celebrations are taking place to mark this day and while we can't come together physically to sing and play music together in the way we would normally do we can still play and sing to celebrate at home.
Music played a really big part in keeping people's spirits up during WWII for both the people at home and the troops abroad, with performers visiting the troops and soldiers even putting on their own performances to keep each other entertained. Just as music helped people then it can be a great way to keep our spirits up now too!
You may have heard of Vera Lynn and Gracie Fields who became famous for their singing at this time. Below are some links to recordings of them and also of Flanagan and Allen with some other songs you may well recognise which were very popular.

Run Rabbit Run - Flanagan and Allen
https://youtu.be/SXmk8dbFv_o

We're gonna hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line - Flanagan and Allen
https://youtu.be/1mN8wZB8ae8

Gracie Fields - Wish me luck
https://youtu.be/7EUytEX_XkE

Vera Lynn - Wish me luck
https://youtu.be/-_f5NbPOOGE

Vera Lynn - The White Cliffs of Dover
https://youtu.be/d5aeCIRY4kA

Vera Lynn - We'll meet again
https://youtu.be/HsM_VmN6ytk

Why not sing along!

"We'll Meet Again"
We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again
Some sunny day
Keep smiling through
Just like you always do
'Till the blue skies chase

Those dark clouds far away

And I will just say hello
To the folks that you know
Tell them you won't be long
They'll be happy to know
That, as I saw you go
You were singing this song

We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again
Some sunny day

And I will just say hello
To the folks that you know
Tell them you won't be long
They'll be happy to know
That, as I saw you go
You were singing this song

We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again
Some sunny day

Who wrote this song?
Originally released in 1939, “We’ll Meet Again” was composed by Ross Parker and Hughie Charles, and sung by Dame Vera Lynn.

Why was the song so important during the Second World War?
The song found its fame during the Second World War, as it resonated with soldiers who had to leave their families and fight for Britain.



Dame Vera Lynn receives a grand welcome as she arrives in Trafalgar Square, London, in 1943 (Getty)

Thanks to its moving melody and uplifting lyrics, “We’ll Meet Again” was played on the radio during wartime broadcasts, which were designed to provide public information and boost morale after bombing raids.

It’s popular again now while we find ourselves in this new situation staying at home for a while.

As well as singing, big band music was really popular and live and recorded music brought people together to dance and socialise. Glenn Miller and his band are a great example.

Have a listen to one of his famous pieces of music here:

https://youtu.be/_CI-0E_jses

The Swing rhythm is a very recognisable style from this time. You can have a go at playing the swing rhythm yourself. See how coordinated you are!!

Tap your left foot to make the beat of the bass drum on beat 1 and beat 3. Now add your left hand tapping your thigh on beats 2 and 4. Once you’ve got into the swing of that (ha ha) you can add the finishing touch which is really what gives the swing rhythm it’s distinct feel. Saying the words ‘ten to ten’ to yourself you can do this with a vocal sound (tt) to get the cymbal (ride cymbal in a drum kit) or tap your right hand in the air or on something such as a table. You could get others in your house involved in this by asking each person to do a different part of the rhythm if you like.

Here is a track you can tap and play along to:

https://youtu.be/Xzm4zqayqe4

You may also like the Horrible Histories things too!!

https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/horrible-histories-songs-ve-day-song

Brass instruments played fanfares to give signals to soldiers and also to mark occasions.
Fanfares often just use very few notes which are 3, 4 or 5 notes apart e.g. C and E,F or G. Fanfares are still very much used today to sound the arrival of someone important, make an announcement or mark a special event or memory.
Here is an example of a fanfare:
https://youtu.be/oAQMN0hHIKA

You can try making up your own fanfare on any instrument using just a few notes.