

## History of Jazz – The 1700's



- When Africans arrived in the New World in chains as servants and slaves in the 17th and 18th centuries, **they were entering an alien world**. The languages, religious beliefs, dress, food were different from what they were used to.
- But they carried their music and traditions with them. The powerful rhythms of **African percussion** influenced American music.
- Slave **work songs** were created in the African tradition of call-and-response. To tell a story, a song leader would call out a line and the workers would respond to the call. Many **slaveholders** did not allow the slaves to speak to each other, so the only way they could communicate was through work songs.
- They developed many different ways of getting their secret messages across in the lyrics (Words).