

# Progression of skills & knowledge in music



The knowledge and skills children gaining throughout through their time at school is organised into the following strands:

1. Listening and evaluating
2. Creating sound
3. Notation
4. Improvising and composing
5. Performing

## Listening and evaluating

### EYFS

#### Skills

- Listening appropriately to someone leading a short musical phrase, song or rhyme.
- Exploring spontaneous movement with different parts of their body in response to music.
- Expressing different spontaneous emotional reactions to music, (smiling, movement, body language).
- Identifying and imitating sounds from a variety of music.
- Considering whether background music and sound effects can enhance storytelling.
- Listening to music from a wide variety of cultures and historical periods.

#### Knowledge

- To understand how to listen carefully and talk about what I hear.
- To know that the beat is the steady pulse of a song.
- To understand that a piece of music can tell a story with sounds.
- To recognise that voices and instruments can imitate sounds from the world around us (eg. vehicles).
- To know that an orchestra is a big group of people playing a variety of instruments together.
- To recognise music that is 'fast' or 'slow.'
- To know that different instruments can sound like a particular character.
- To know that music often has more than one instrument being played at a time.
- To understand what 'high' and 'low' notes are.

## Year 1

### Skills

- Listening with concentration to short pieces of music or excerpts from longer pieces of music.
- Engaging with and responding to longer pieces of music.
- Coordinating the speed of their movements to match the speed of the music (not the beat).
- Beginning to move in time with the beat of the music.
- Beginning to articulate how a piece of music affects them (e.g. it makes them feel sleepy, it makes them want to dance, it makes them happy)
- Identifying some common instruments when listening to music.
- Relating sounds in music to real-world experiences. (e.g. it sounds like squelching mud).
- Recognising simple patterns and repetition in rhythm. (e.g. where a pattern of beats is repeated).
- Recognising simple patterns and repetition in pitch (e.g. do re mi).
- Talking about the tempo of music using the vocabulary of fast and slow.
- Talking about the dynamics of the music, using the vocabulary of loud, quiet and silent.
- Talking about the pitch of music, using the vocabulary of high and low.
- Stating what they enjoyed about their peers' performances.
- Giving positive feedback relating to the tempo of practices and performances using the vocabulary of fast and slow.
- Giving positive feedback related to the dynamics of practices and performances, using the vocabulary of loud, quiet and silent.
- Appreciating music from a wide variety of cultures and historical periods.

### Knowledge

- To recognise and name the following instruments: up to three instruments from Group A and B.
- To know that sections of music can be described as fast or slow and the meaning of these terms.
- To know that sections of music can be described as loud, quiet or silent and the meaning of these terms.
- To know that sounds within music can be described as high or low sounds and the meaning of these terms.
- To know that pulse is the regular heartbeat within music.
- To understand that the pulse of the music can change.
- To know that dynamics can change how someone listening feels about music.
- To know that an instrument or rhythm pattern can represent a character in a story.

National curriculum - end of KS1

use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes

play tuned and untuned instruments musically

listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music

experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

## Listening and evaluating

### Year 2

#### Skills

- Listening with concentration to short pieces of music or excerpts from longer pieces of music.
- Engaging with and responding to longer pieces of music.
- Confidently moving in time with the beat of the music when modelled.
- Beginning to keep movements to the beat of different speeds of music.
- Beginning to explain why the music has a certain effect on them, which could be related to the music or a personal experience.
- Identifying some common instruments when listening to music.
- Relating sounds in music to real-world experiences. (e.g. it sounds like squelching mud).
- Recognising simple patterns and repetition in rhythm. (e.g. where a pattern of beats is repeated).
- Recognising simple patterns and repetition in pitch (e.g. do re mi).
- Talking about the tempo of music using the vocabulary of fast and slow.
- Talking about the dynamics of the music, using the vocabulary of loud, quiet and silent.
- Talking about the pitch of music, using the vocabulary of high and low.
- Stating what they enjoyed about their peers' performances.
- Giving positive feedback relating to the tempo of practices and performances using the vocabulary of fast and slow.
- Giving positive feedback related to the dynamics of practices and performances, using the vocabulary of loud, quiet and silent.

#### Knowledge

- To be able to recognise and name up to three instruments from Group A and B.
- To know that sections of music can be described as fast or slow and the meaning of these terms.
- To know that sections of music can be described as loud, quiet or silent and the meaning of these terms.
- To know that sounds within music can be described as high or low sounds and the meaning of these terms.
- To know that dynamics can change the effect a sound has on the audience.

- Appreciating music from a wide variety of cultures and historical periods.

### Year 3

#### Skills

- Explaining their preferences for a piece of music using musical vocabulary.
- Discussing the stylistic features of different genres, styles and traditions of music using musical vocabulary.
- Understanding that music from different parts of the world, and different times, has different features.
- Recognising and explaining the changes within a piece of music using musical vocabulary.
- Describing the timbre, dynamic, and textural details of a piece of music, both verbally, and through movement.
- Beginning to show an awareness of metre.
- Beginning to use musical vocabulary (related to the inter-dimensions of music) when discussing improvements to their own and others' work.
- Understanding that music from different times has different features.

#### Knowledge

- To know that a ballad tells a story through song.
- To understand that the timbre of instruments played affect the mood and style of a piece of music.
- To know that an ensemble is a group of musicians who perform together.
- To know that the group of pitches in a song is called its 'key' and that a key decides whether a song sounds happy or sad.
- To know that the word 'crescendo' means a sound getting gradually louder.
- To know that some traditional music around the world is based on five notes called a 'pentatonic' scale.
- To understand that 'syncopation' means a rhythm that is played off the natural beat.
- To know that Ragtime is piano music that uses syncopation and a fast tempo.
- To know that jazz is a type of music that originated in the African-American communities of the USA about 120 years ago.
- To know that 'scat singing' is using made-up words to create the sound of an instrument playing.
- To know that Indian music uses all of the sounds in between the 12 'notes' that we are used to in western music.
- To know that a 'tala' is a set rhythm that is repeated over and over, usually on the drums called 'tabla'.
- To know that a 'rag' is the tune in traditional Indian music, and is often played on a stringed instrument called a 'sitar'
- To know that a 'drone' in music is a note that goes on and on, staying the same, a bit like someone humming a long-held note.

- To know that many types of music from around the world consist of more than one layer of sound; for example a 'tala' and 'rag' in traditional Indian music.

National curriculum - end of KS2

play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression

improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music

listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory

use and understand staff and other musical notations

appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians

develop an understanding of the history of music.

### Listening and evaluating

Year 4

#### Skills

- Explaining their preferences for a piece of music using musical vocabulary.
- Recognising the use and development of motifs in music.
- Identifying gradual dynamic and tempo changes within a piece of music.
- Identifying common features between different genres, styles and traditions of music.
- Recognising, naming and explaining the effect of the interrelated dimensions of music.
- Identifying scaled dynamics (crescendo/decrescendo) within a piece of music.
- Using musical vocabulary to discuss the purpose of a piece of music.

#### Knowledge

- To know that rock and roll music uses blues chord structures, with a fast tempo and strong vocals. It was created after the second world war and it was intended to represent happiness.
- To know that a bass line is the lowest pitch line of notes in a piece of music, and a walking bassline (where patterns of notes go up then down again) is common in rock and roll.
- To know that when you sing without accompaniment it is called 'A Capella'.
- To know that a glissando in music means a sliding effect played on instruments or made by your voice.
- To know that samba music originated in Brazil, South America and its main musical feature is syncopated rhythms.

- Recognising and discussing the stylistic features of different genres, styles and traditions of music using musical vocabulary.
- Using musical vocabulary when discussing improvements to their own and others' work.

- To understand that the 'on beat' is the pulse of a piece of music, and the 'off beat' is beats that fall in between these.
- To understand that both instruments and voices can create audio effects that describe something you can see. To understand that a rhythmic break is a place in the music where some of the instruments play a new rhythm before going back to the original rhythms.

## Year 5

### Skills

- Understanding the impact music has on them and starting to articulate the reasons for this effect using musical vocabulary.
- Recognising and confidently discussing the stylistic features of different genres, styles and traditions of music using musical vocabulary.
- Representing the features of a piece of music using graphic notation, and colours, justifying their choices with reference to musical vocabulary.
- Comparing, discussing and evaluating music using detailed musical vocabulary.
- Developing confidence in using detailed musical vocabulary (related to the inter-related dimensions of music) to discuss and evaluate their own and others' work.
- Confidently discussing the stylistic features of different genres, styles and traditions of music and explaining how these have developed over time.

### Knowledge

- To understand that a slow tempo and a minor key (pitch) can be used to make music sound sad.
- To understand that a chord is the layering of several pitches played at the same time.
- To know that 12-bar Blues is a sequence of 12 bars of music, made up of three different chords.
- To know that 'blues' music aims to share feelings and blues songs tend to be about sadness or worry.
- To know that a 'bent note' is a note that varies in its pitch, eg the pitch may slide up or down.
- To know that songs sung in other languages can contain sounds that are unfamiliar to us, like the clicks of the Xhosa language.
- To know that 'The Click Song' is a traditional song sung in the Xhosa language and is believed to bring good luck at weddings.
- To understand that major chords create a bright, happy sound.
- To know that poly-rhythms means many rhythms played at once.
- To know that dance music is usually produced using electronic percussion sounds, and recordings of the music are played by DJs in clubs or at festivals.
- To know that remix is music that has been changed, usually so it is suitable for dancing to.
- To understand that musical theatre includes both character and action songs, which explain what is going on and how characters feel.

National curriculum - end of KS2

play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression

improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music

listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory

use and understand staff and other musical notations

appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians

develop an understanding of the history of music.

## Listening and evaluating

Year 6

### Skills

- Understanding the impact music has on them and starting to articulate the reasons for this effect using musical vocabulary.
- Discussing musical eras in context, identifying how they have influenced each other, and discussing the impact of different composers on the development of musical styles.
- Recognising and confidently discussing the stylistic features of music and relating it to other aspects of the Arts.
- Representing changes in pitch, dynamics and texture using graphic notation, justifying their choices with reference to musical vocabulary.
- Identifying the way that features of a song can complement one another to create a coherent overall effect.
- Use musical vocabulary correctly when describing and evaluating the features of a piece of music.
- Evaluating how the venue, occasion and purpose affects the way a piece of music sounds.

### Knowledge

- To understand that texture can be created by adding or removing instruments in a piece and can create the effect of dynamic change.
- To know that timbre can also be thought of as 'tone colour' and can be described in many ways eg warm or cold, rich or bright.
- To know that 'Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag' and 'We'll meet again' are examples of songs popular during WW2
- A 'counter-subject' or 'counter-melody' provides contrast to the main melody.
- To know that a counter-melody is different to harmony because it uses a different rhythm as well as complementary notes.
- To know that a film soundtrack includes the background music and any songs in a film.
- To understand that 'major' key signatures use note pitches that sound cheerful and upbeat.
- To understand that 'minor' key signatures use note pitches that can suggest sadness and tension.

- Confidently using detailed musical vocabulary (related to the inter-related dimensions of music) to discuss and evaluate their own and others work.

- To know that a 'theme' is a main melody in a piece of music.
- To know that 'variations' in music are when a main melody is changed in some way throughout the piece.
- To know that 'The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra' was written in 1945 by Benjamin Britten.
- To know that a 'polyphonic' texture means lots of individual melodies layered together, like in a canon.
- To know that music in which very similar parts are introduced one by one to overlap is called a canon.
- To know that ground bass is a repeating melody played on a bass instrument in Baroque music.
- To know that a canon is a musical structure or 'form' in which an opening melody is imitated by one or more parts coming in one by one.

National curriculum - end of KS2

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develop an understanding of the history of music.

## Creating sound

### EYFS

#### Skills

- Singing short, rhythmic rhymes and songs.
- Using both speaking and singing voices.
- Unconsciously beginning to sing to the pulse of a song.
- Exploring vowel sounds through call and response activities.
- Exploring different ways of making sound with everyday objects and instruments. (Groups A, B and C.)
- Exploring different ways of holding a range of instruments. (Groups A, B and C.)
- Starting to show a preference for a dominant hand when playing instruments. (Groups A, B and C.)
- Using instruments expressively to music. (Group B.)
- Using instruments to begin to follow a beat, with guidance. (Group A.)
- Finding a comfortable static position when playing instruments or singing.

#### Knowledge

- To know that sounds can be copied by my voice, body percussion and instruments.
- To understand that instruments can be played loudly or softly.
- To understand that my voice or an instrument can match an action in a song.
- To recognise that different sounds can be long or short.

### Year 1

#### Skills

- Singing simple songs, chants and rhymes from memory.
- Practising singing songs with a wider pitch range (e.g. pentatonic melodies) which is gradually getting higher or lower.
- Competently singing songs with a very small pitch range (two notes that are different but close together).
- Breathing at appropriate times when singing.
- Exploring changing their singing voice in different ways.
- Singing a range of call and response songs, attempting to match the pitch and tempo they hear.

#### Knowledge

- To know that my voice, body and instruments can show fast and slow beats.
- To know that the voice can whisper and shout to help tell a story.

- Developing an awareness of how sound is affected by the way an instrument is held. (Groups A, B and C.)
- Developing an awareness of how dynamics are affected by the force with which an instrument is played. (Groups A, B and C.)
- Learning to use instruments to follow the beat by first observing and then mimicking the teacher's modelling. (Group A.)
- Using instruments imaginatively to create soundscapes which convey a sense of place. (Group B.)
- Using bilateral and hand-eye co-ordination to play/hold instruments using both hands. (Group A.)
- Starting to understand how to produce different sounds on pitched instruments. (Group C.)
- Maintaining a comfortable position when sitting or standing to sing and play instruments.

National curriculum - end of KS1

use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes

play tuned and untuned instruments musically

listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music

experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

## Creating sound

Year 2

### Skills

- Singing simple songs, chants and rhymes from memory.
- Practising singing songs with a wider pitch range (e.g. pentatonic melodies) which is gradually getting higher or lower.
- Competently singing songs or short phrases with a small pitch range (up to five notes that are different but close together).
- Breathing at appropriate times when singing.
- Singing a range of call and response chants, matching the dynamic and tempo they hear with accuracy.
- Singing part of a given song in their head (using their 'thinking voice').
- Developing an awareness of how sound is affected by the way an instrument is held. (Groups A, B and C.)
- Developing an awareness of how dynamics are affected by the force with which an instrument is played. (Groups A, B and C.)
- Learning to use instruments to follow the beat by first observing and then mimicking the teacher's modelling. (Group A.)
- Using instruments imaginatively to create soundscapes which convey a sense of place. (Group B.)
- Using bilateral and hand-eye co-ordination to play/hold instruments using both hands. (Group A.)
- Starting to understand how to produce different sounds on pitched instruments. (Group C.)
- Maintaining a comfortable position when sitting or standing to sing and play instruments.

### Knowledge

- N/A

Year 3

Skills

- N/A

Knowledge

- N/A

National curriculum - end of KS2

play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression

improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music

listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory

use and understand staff and other musical notations

appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians

develop an understanding of the history of music.

## Creating sound

Year 4

Skills

- N/A

Knowledge

- To understand that both instruments and voices can create audio effects that describe something you can see.

Year 5

Skills

- N/A

Knowledge

- To understand that varying effects can be created using only your voice, for example by changing the pitch, dynamic or tempo of the sounds made.
- To understand that human voices have their own individual timbre, and that this can be adapted by using the voice in different ways.

National curriculum - end of KS2

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## Creating sound

Year 6

Skills

- N/A

Knowledge

- N/A

National curriculum - end of KS2

play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression

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## Notation

### EYFS

#### Skills

- Developing an awareness of high and low through pictorial representations of sound.

### Year 1

#### Skills

- Reading different types of notation by moving eyes from left to right as sound occurs.
- Recognising pitch patterns using dots.
- Using pictorial representations to stay in time with the pulse when singing or playing.
- Confidently reading simple rhythmic patterns comprising of one beat sounds (crotchets) and one beat rests (crotchet rests).

#### Knowledge

- To know that notation is read from left to right.
- To understand that music can be represented by pictures or symbols.

National curriculum - end of KS1  
use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes  
play tuned and untuned instruments musically  
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experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

## Notation

### Year 2

#### Skills

- Reading different types of notation by moving eyes from left to right as sound occurs.
- Using a simplified version of a staff (only three lines) to notate known musical phrases (of two pitches).
- Using pictorial representations to stay in time with the pulse when singing or playing.
- Confidently reading simple rhythmic patterns comprising of one beat sounds (crotchets) and one beat rests (crotchet rests).
- Beginning to read simple rhythmic patterns which include two half beats (quavers).

#### Knowledge

- To know notation is read from left to right.
- To know that in all pictorial representations of music, representations further up the page are higher sounds and those further down are lower sounds.
- To know that pictorial representations of rhythm show sounds and rests.

### Year 3

#### Skills

- Using letter name and rhythmic notation (graphic or staff), and key musical vocabulary to label and record their compositions.
- Performing from basic staff notation, incorporating rhythm and pitch and able to identify these symbols using musical terminology.

#### Knowledge

- To understand that 'reading' music means using how the written note symbols look and their position to know what notes to play.
- To know that different notes have different durations, and that crotchets are worth one whole beat.
- To know that written music tells you how long to play a note for.
- To understand that a pentatonic melody uses only the five notes C D E G A.

National curriculum - end of KS2

play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression

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use and understand staff and other musical notations

appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians

develop an understanding of the history of music.

## Notation

### Year 4

#### Skills

- Using letter name, graphic and rhythmic notation and musical vocabulary to label and record their compositions.

#### Knowledge

- To know that 'performance directions' are words added to music notation to tell the performers how to play.
- To know that 'transposing' a melody means changing its key, making it higher or lower pitched.

### Year 5

#### Skills

- Using staff notation to record rhythms and melodies.

#### Knowledge

- To know that simple pictures can be used to represent the structure (organisation) of music.
- To understand that in written staff notation, notes can go on or between lines, and that the lines show the pitch of the note
- To know that the duration of a note or phrase in music can be shown using a repeated symbol or the size of a symbol on a graphic score.

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develop an understanding of the history of music.

## Notation

Year 6

### Skills

- Recording own composition using appropriate forms of notation and/or technology and incorporating the inter-related dimensions of music.
- Performing with accuracy and fluency from graphic and staff notation and from their own notation.

### Knowledge

- To know that 'graphic notation' means writing music down using your choice of pictures or symbols but 'staff notation' means music written more formally on the special lines called 'staves'.
- To know that chord progressions are represented in music by Roman numerals.
- To know that the Solfa syllables represent the pitches in an octave.
- To understand that representing beats of silence or 'rests' in written music is important as it helps us play rhythms correctly.
- To understand that all types of music notation show note duration.

National curriculum - end of KS2

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## Improvising and composing

### EYFS

#### Skills

- Exploring and imitating sounds from their environment and in response to events in stories.
- Exploring and imitating sounds.
- Experimenting with creating sound in different ways using instruments, body percussion and voices.
- Selecting classroom objects to use as instruments.
- Selecting sounds that make them feel a certain way or remind them of something.
- Playing sounds at the relevant point in a storytelling.

### Year 1

#### Skills

- Creating sound responses to a variety of physical stimuli such as, nature, artwork and stories.
- Improvising simple question and answer phrases, using untuned percussion or voices.
- Experimenting with creating different sounds using a single instrument.
- Experimenting with creating loud, soft, high and low sounds.
- Selecting objects and instruments to create sounds to represent a given idea or character.
- Playing and combining sounds under the direction of a leader (the teacher)

#### Knowledge

- N/A

National curriculum - end of KS1

use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes

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experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

## Improvising and composing

### Year 2

#### Skills

- Creating sound responses to a variety of physical stimuli such as, nature, artwork and stories.
- Improvising simple question and answer phrases, using untuned percussion or voices.
- Experimenting with adapting rhythmic patterns by changing either the dynamics, tempo or instrument.
- Selecting and creating short sequences of sound with voices or instruments to represent a given idea or character.
- Working collaboratively to combine different sounds by either turn-taking or by playing sounds at the same time.

#### Knowledge

- N/A

### Year 3

#### Skills

- Composing a piece of music in a given style with voices and instruments.
- Beginning to improvise musically within a given style using their voice.
- Combining melodies and rhythms to compose a multi-layered composition in a given style (pentatonic).
- Suggesting and implementing improvements to their own work, using musical vocabulary.

#### Knowledge

- To know that lyrics are the words of a song.
- To know that in a ballad, a 'stanza' is a verse.

National curriculum - end of KS2

play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression

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develop an understanding of the history of music.

## Improvising and composing

Year 4

### Skills

- Composing a coherent piece of music in a given style with voices, bodies and instruments.
- Beginning to improvise musically within a given style using an instrument.
- Developing melodies using rhythmic variation, transposition, inversion, and looping.
- Creating a piece of music with at least four different layers and a clear structure.

### Knowledge

- To know that deciding the structure of music when composing can help us create interesting music with contrasting sections.
- To know that combining different instruments and different rhythms when we compose can create layers of sound we call 'texture'.
- To know that a 'loop' in music is a repeated melody or rhythm.
- To know that changing the dynamics of a musical phrase or motif can change the texture of a piece of music.
- To understand that harmony means playing two notes at the same time, which usually sound good together.
- An ostinato is a musical pattern that is repeated over and over; a vocal ostinato is a pattern created with your voice.
- To know that expressive language (like a poem) can be used as inspiration for composing music.
- To know that grouping instruments according to their timbre can create contrasting 'textures' in music.
- To understand that musical motifs (repeating patterns) are used as a building block in many well-known pieces of music for example, Beethoven's fifth symphony (dah dah dah dum!).
- To know that a motif can be adapted by changing the notes, the rhythm or the order of notes.

## Year 5

### Skills

- Composing a detailed piece of music from a given stimulus with voices, bodies and instruments (Remix, Colours, Stories, Drama).
- Improvising coherently within a given style
- Combining rhythmic patterns (ostinato) into a multi-layered composition using all the inter-related dimensions of music to add musical interest.
- Selecting, discussing and refining musical choices both alone and with others, using musical vocabulary with confidence.
- Suggesting and demonstrating improvements to own and others' work.

### Knowledge

- To know that a vocal composition is a piece of music created only using voices.
- To know that a loop is a repeated rhythm or melody, and is another word for ostinato.

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develop an understanding of the history of music.

## Improvising and composing

Year 6

### Skills

- Improvising coherently and creatively within a given style, incorporating given features.
- Composing a multi-layered piece of music from a given stimulus with voices, bodies and Instruments.
- Composing an original song, incorporating lyric writing, melody writing and the composition of accompanying features, within a given structure.
- Developing melodies using rhythmic variation, transposition and changes in dynamics, pitch and texture.
- Constructively critique their own and others' work, using musical vocabulary.

### Knowledge

- To understand that improvisation means making up music 'on the spot'.
- To know that a chord progression is a sequence of chords that repeats throughout a song.
- To know that a melody can be adapted by changing its dynamics, pitch or tempo.

National curriculum - end of KS2

play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression

improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music

listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory

use and understand staff and other musical notations

appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians

develop an understanding of the history of music.

## Performing

### EYFS

#### Skills

- Beginning to say what they liked about others' performances.
- Beginning to say what they liked about others' performances.
- Spontaneously expressing feelings around performing.
- Performing actively as part of a group.
- Demonstrating being a good audience member, by looking, listening and maintaining attention.

#### Knowledge

- To know that there are special songs we can sing to celebrate events.
- To understand that we can match our body movements to the speed (tempo) or pulse (beat) of music.
- To understand that performing means playing a finished piece of music for an audience.

### Year 1

#### Skills

- Offering positive feedback on others' performances.
- Starting to maintain a steady beat throughout short singing performances.
- Keeping head raised when singing.
- Keeping instruments still until their part in the performance.
- Performing actively as part of a group; keeping in time with the beat.
- Showing awareness of leader particularly when starting or ending a piece.

#### Knowledge

- N/A

National curriculum - end of KS1  
use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes  
play tuned and untuned instruments musically  
listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music  
experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

## Performing

### Year 2

#### Skills

- Offering positive feedback on others' performances.
- Starting to maintain a steady beat throughout short singing performances.
- Standing or sitting appropriately when performing or waiting to perform.
- Beginning to acknowledge their own feelings around performance.
- Performing actively as a group, clearly keeping in time with the beat.
- Following a leader to start and end a piece appropriately.

#### Knowledge

- N/A

### Year 3

#### Skills

- Offering constructive feedback on others' performances.
- Singing songs in a variety of musical styles with accuracy and control, demonstrating developing vocal technique.
- Singing and playing in time with peers, with some degree of accuracy and awareness of their part in the group performance.

#### Knowledge

- To know that to perform well, it is important to listen to the other members of your ensemble.

#### National curriculum - end of KS2

play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression

improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music

listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory

use and understand staff and other musical notations

appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians

develop an understanding of the history of music.

## Performing

### Year 4

#### Skills

- Singing longer songs in a variety of musical styles from memory, with accuracy, control, fluency and a developing sense of expression including control of subtle dynamic changes.
- Singing and playing in time with peers with accuracy and awareness of their part in the group performance.
- Playing melody parts on tuned instruments with accuracy and control and developing instrumental technique.
- Playing syncopated rhythms with accuracy, control and fluency.

#### Knowledge

- To know that playing 'in time' requires playing the notes for the correct duration as well as at the correct speed.

### Year 5

#### Skills

- Using musical vocabulary to offer constructive and precise feedback on others' performances.
- Singing songs in two or more parts, in a variety of musical styles from memory, with accuracy, fluency, control and expression.
- Working as a group to perform a piece of music, adjusting dynamics and pitch according to a graphic score, keeping in time with others and communicating with the group.
- Combining rhythmic patterns (ostinato) into a multi-layered composition using all the inter-related dimensions of music to add musical interest.

#### Knowledge

- To know that choreography means the organisation of steps or moves in a dance.
- To know that musical theatre uses transitions, which are short passages of music used to move between sections of the musical action.

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listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory

use and understand staff and other musical notations

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## Performing

Year 6

### Skills

- Using musical vocabulary to offer constructive and precise feedback on others' performances.
- Singing songs in two or more secure parts from memory, with accuracy, fluency, control and expression.
- Working as a group to perform a piece of music, adjusting the interrelated dimensions of music as required, keeping in time and communicating with the group.
- Performing a solo or taking a leadership role within a performance.
- Performing by following a conductor's cues and directions.

### Knowledge

- To know that the conductor beats time to help the performers work well together.

National curriculum - end of KS2

play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression

improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music

listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory

use and understand staff and other musical notations

appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians

develop an understanding of the history of music.