



Guide to Year 7 Music

Expectations of Students	
Students are expected to follow all instructions, complete all activities and take part in all group work.	
Topic Title and unit	What students will be learning
Year 7 Unit 1 - Night and Day	This unit looks at how different composers have used the elements of music to describe different times of the night and day through music from different times and places. It develops awareness and understanding of the elements of music providing pupils with a foundation of musical vocabulary to describe a variety of music at Key Stage 3. During this unit, pupils will explore how the elements of music can be adapted and manipulated to create a composition describing morning and sunrise and perform and listen to morning and night music.
Year 7 Unit 2 - Rhythm and Pulse	This unit develops pupils' awareness of the importance of pulse as a fundamental upon which music is built and performed. Through the integrated activities of performing, composing and listening, pupils will begin to develop their own feeling for and awareness of a regular pulse. Pupils will be able to make a clear distinction between pulse and rhythm and learn to use rhythm grids as a method of recording rhythms. Pupils are introduced to note values and notation and compose, perform and notate their own rhythm compositions including time signatures and the grouping of note values into bars to form regular units.
Year 7 Unit 3 - Form and Structure	This unit begins by exploring question and answer phrases as one of the simplest types of musical structures. Pupils learn about call and response and how musical question and answer phrases balance with each other to form a complete structure. Pupils move onto explore Binary Form exploring how musical contrast is achieved between two different sections and develop this into Ternary Form by repeating the first section at the end to form a musical "sandwich". Finally, pupils look at Rondo Form as a type of recurring musical structure and add contrasting melodic improvisations to a recurring "A" section. Throughout the unit, pupils listen to examples of music based on each of the musical structures they are exploring and compose and perform within these forms. Particular emphasis in this unit is placed on staff notation and melody writing skills and pupils are encouraged to use staff notation or letter names when notating compositions.
Year 7 Unit 4 - Instruments of the Orchestra	This unit develops pupils' understanding about orchestral instruments and families/sections of orchestral instruments. Pupils learn about the construction, sound production and timbres of different orchestral instruments using Benjamin Britten's <i>"Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra"</i> to enhance their learning. Pupils are introduced to the modern symphony orchestra and learn about its layout, grouping and the instruments which belong to each section including their individual and characteristic timbres. This unit is brought to life by pupil's experiencing actual orchestral instruments (where possible) and pupils join together to play a class orchestra piece to gain an understanding of what it's like to perform as part of a larger group and the role of individual parts to the overall texture of the music.
Year 7 Unit 5 - Pictures at an Exhibition	This unit aims to explore how pictures and art can provide the inspiration and stimulus for composition. Mussorgsky's work <i>Pictures at an Exhibition</i> is based on his close friend, the painter and architect, Victor Hartmann's paintings at an exhibition mounted shortly after his death. Pupils begin by exploring how the recurring "Promenade" theme portrays Mussorgsky's walk through the exhibition and perform the rhythm and melody of the "Promenade" theme to use later in the unit. Pupils then explore how Mussorgsky captures the mood of some of the paintings in more detail, through sound and how the elements of music are used to create different effects. Finally, pupils compose their own piece of music inspired by a picture or painting of their choice, which is put together to form a class "Pictures at an Exhibition" featuring the recurring "Promenade" theme.
Year 7 Unit 6 - Voiceworks	"Voiceworks" is all about using the voice and singing. This unit includes "pairs" of lessons on call and response songs, rounds, songs with an ostinato accompaniment, part-songs and how the voice can be used in a variety of different ways. Learning is developed through a wide variety of songs and chants from different times and places. Pupils learn about vocal harmonies and textures developing an understanding of the voice, how it works, breath control and vocal registers.

How you can specifically help your child: Encourage them different genres of music at home.

Contact details

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