

Music Progression of Skills document

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.

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 keep movements to the beat of different speeds of music.
- Confidently moving in time with the beat of the music when modelled.
- 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)
- 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.
- 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.
- To know that dynamics can change the effect a sound has on the audience.

Skills

- Explaining their preferences for a piece of music using musical vocabulary.
- Recognising and 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.
- 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.
- Using musical vocabulary (related to the inter-related dimensions of music) when discussing improvements to their own and others' work.

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.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

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

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.
- 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

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

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 1/2

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 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.
- 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 3/4	
Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand that both instruments and voices can create audio effects that describe something you can see.
Year 5	
Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Year 6	
Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Notation

EYFS

Skills

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

Year 1/2

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).
- Beginning to read simple rhythmic patterns which include two half beats (quavers).
- Using a simplified version of a stave (only three lines) to notate known musical phrases (of two pitches).

Knowledge

- To know that 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 3/4

<p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Using letter name, graphic and rhythmic notation and musical vocabulary to label and record their compositions. 	<p>Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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.
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Year 5

<p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using staff notation to record rhythms and melodies. 	<p>Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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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Year 6

<p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording own composition using appropriate forms of notation and/or technology and incorporating the inter-related dimensions of music. 	<p>Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To know that 'graphic notation' means writing music down using your choice of pictures or symbols but 'staff
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- Performing with accuracy and fluency from graphic and staff notation and from their own notation.

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

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

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Improvising and composing

Year 1/2	
Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• Experimenting with adapting rhythmic patterns by changing either the dynamics, tempo or instrument.• Selecting objects and instruments to create sounds to represent a given idea or character.• Selecting and creating short sequences of sound with voices or instruments to represent a given idea or character.• Playing and combining sounds under the direction of a leader (the teacher).• Working collaboratively to combine different sounds by either turn-taking or by playing sounds at the same time.	Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A
Year 3/4	
Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Composing a piece of music in a given style with voices and instruments.• Beginning to improvise musically within a given style using their voice.	Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To know that lyrics are the words of a song.• To know that in a ballad, a 'stanza' is a verse.

- 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.
- 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.

- 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.

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

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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 1/2

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.
- Standing or sitting appropriately when performing or waiting to perform.

Knowledge

- N/A

- 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.

Year 3/4

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

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.

- 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.

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.

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