



Department of Music

Year 9

Overview

Year 9 Music focuses on the practical application of Music through listening, performance and composition activities. Students begin the year by performing a piece of film music, Star Wars, and then continue by composing their own music for a set film clip. They then spend a term learning about the history of classical music through the Baroque and Romantic era, before going on to study about modern genres of music: musicals and reggae music. The topics chosen cover a variety of genres therefore providing the students with a broad and balanced understanding of the musical canon.

Skills Developed

In Year 9 music we encourage students to develop their understanding of musical style and socio-historical context through practical application. There is particular emphasis on the following:

- Solo and ensemble performance (vocal and instrumental).
- Arranging music.
- Creating and developing extended melodies.
- Exploring harmonic conventions through composition and performance.
- Using musical structures.

Topics covered

Film Music	Students will consider how music is used in films to enhance audience experience. They will first perform a score from Star Wars, focussing on how the musical elements are used to portray a particular scene. Following on from this, students will compose music to accompany a short film scene.
Baroque	Students will consider typical features of music from the Baroque era and how instruments and music developed during this period. They will perform Spring from Vivaldi's <i>Four Seasons</i> .
Romantic	Students will consider typical features of music from the Romantic and how music developed during the period. They will perform Russian Dance from Tchaikovsky's <i>Nutcracker</i> .
Musicals	Students will consider typical features of songs from musicals and how music theatre has been influenced by popular music traditions. They will make an arrangement of a music-theatre song.

How we assess your daughter's progress

Students will undertake a listening test and practical assessment for each topic studied.

The listening test will require students to recall information about the context of the genre of music being studied, as well as aurally analyse according to the seven key musical elements. It will also test students' understanding of

relevant key musical terminology too.

The practical assessment will require students to perform an arrangement of a set piece of music, or their individual compositions. This will usually involve the students performing in front of their peers, in group settings. This task requires all students to have a basic knowledge of the theory of music, specifically reading notation of the treble and bass clefs.

At the end of each topic, a colour band will be allocated, based on the average of both of these assessments.

How we support and develop your daughter

Pupils will be asked to keep work for each of the topics detailed above in a music folder. They will work through worksheets and performances in class. Pupils should be encouraged to listen to a variety of styles of music and to consider their context and purpose. Pupils are also urged to listen to the 'set works' studied in class in their own time too.

Support material will also be available on Frog via www.nonsuch.sutton.sch.uk.

Other useful resources:

<https://www.musictheory.net/>

<https://www.earmaster.com/music-theory-online/course-introduction.html>

<https://www.teoria.com/>

Students can also apply for private Music Theory tuition with our peripatetic instrumental teachers.

How you can help your daughter

Parents/guardians could ensure that their daughter allocates time to practise for her performance assessments.

Regular testing of staff notation, particularly notes of the treble clef.

Regular recall of the seven musical elements and their corresponding terminology will also help to improve students' listening analysis skills too. This could be done by checking through the glossaries for each topic.