



Year 7

Department of Music

OVERVIEW

Year 7 Music focuses on the practical application of Music through listening, performance and composition activities. Students begin the year by learning about the 7 musical elements through written notation tasks and practical performances. They then spend half a term learning about the instruments of the orchestra so that they can recognise individual instrument's sounds, before going on to study about three specific genres of music: music of the Classical Period, music for advertising and gamelan 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 7 we encourage students to develop their understanding of musical style through practical application.

There is particular emphasis on the following:

- Developing an appropriate musical vocabulary, focussing particularly on articulating coherent musical opinions.
- Staff notation.
- Ensemble performance (vocal and instrumental).
- Melodic composition.
- Listening analysis.

Topics covered

General Musicianship	An introduction to the elements of music, musical notation, the keyboard and the voice. The project will culminate in an ostinato composition, a performance of several Christmas carols and the Year 7 Christmas Song. Year 7 will perform their Christmas Song at the Carol Concert.
Instruments of the orchestra	Students will learn how to identify instruments of the orchestra by sight and sound. They will complete many exploratory listening activities to help solidify their timbral awareness.
The Classical Era	Students will learn how to aurally identify stylistic features of music from the Classical Period. They will perform an arrangement of a well-known Classical composition: Haydn's <i>Surprise Symphony</i> .
Gamelan	Students learn about the musical and contextual features of Gamelan music from Indonesia. They will perform an authentic Gamelan piece, which includes improvisation. They will also compose a Gamelan-style piece to accompany an authentic Indonesian shadow puppet display.

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 given a curriculum booklet for each of the topics detailed above. They will work through these booklets 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.

You could also regularly check her curriculum booklet in order to monitor her progress in the listening assessments too.

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.