



St George's School
Music Department
Year 8 Curriculum Map 2024

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1 ^{from 2025}	Summer 2
THE BIG IDEAS & KNOWLEDGE <i>Overview of topics or key questions</i>	Beethoven Extended Melody Expression / Emotion Chord Inversions	Minimalism Ostinato Chord Sequence Pentatonic Scale Gradual change	Hall of the Mountain King Music in Advertising Accidentals Tempo and Accelerando Romantic Era	Jazz and the Blues Structure (12 Bar Blues) 7 th Chords Blues Scale Instrumentation	Spanish Dance Free-time Polyrhythmic Texture Phrygian Scale Ornamentation (Composition)	West Side Story Hemiola Cross-Rhythm Compound Time Syncopation
SKILLS & STRATEGIES <i>Procedural knowledge, literacy and numeracy skills</i>	Keyboard skills project designed to engage Year 8 quickly and revive their prior work in Year 7. Students will choose from 2 popular and engaging Beethoven pieces (Ode to Joy or Fur Elise – each requiring melodic and chordal parts. Option to work as a duet or as a solo – performance to take place on acoustic piano. Emphasis on accuracy and dynamics. Singing: Wandersmann Mozart's Go Kart	Students will explore examples of Minimalist music and art. They will compose a piece using a pentatonic scale – creating layers of ostinato. Students will consider texture – building and reducing the layers to prevent over-repetition and establish an hypnotic mood. Students will work in pairs or as solo – multi-tracking on the D.A.Ws. Singing: Windmills of Your Mind	In this performance unit students will be introduced to Music in Advertising, looking at Alton Tower's use of Grieg's Hall of the Mountain King. Students will revisit accidental reading in score, as they learn to play this famous melody in different keys (as per the original). Further challenge is provided by staging an accelerando – recapping the Italian terms for different tempo. Singing: Somewhere Only We Know	In this unit students will use a set structure (the 12 Bar Blues) to create a harmonic underlay for an original blues composition. They will compose a walking bass line, and melodic material using a Blues Scale. Students will have opportunities to develop their use of rhythm and harmony –using syncopation and extended chords. This will be multi-tracked into Garageband in pairs or as a solo. Singing: Rock around the Clock	Introduction to Opera and Spanish Music. Students will read the story of Bizet's Carmen, and identify features of Spanish music and polyrhythms. Students will compose a Spanish themed piece in contrasting binary sections – featuring both free-time and metred music. Students will be encouraged to create flourishes (ornaments) in the melodic lines – as a feature of this music. Singing: Canta Rie Bebe Guantanamera	Students will apply their revitalised knowledge of chords and melody performance to a more complex time signature = 6/8. Using Garage-band DAW students will learn to play the melody to America by Leonard Bernstein - supported by a rhythmic chordal and percussive accompaniment. Singing: Somewhere
FEEDBACK <i>Noteworthy tasks and assessments</i>	Beethoven pieces performed live on classroom acoustic pianos / own	Minimalist multi-track Compositions uploaded to Google Classroom. Feedback on individual	Hall of the Mountain King multi-track recordings uploaded to Google Classroom. Feedback on	12 Bar Blues compositions uploaded to Google Classroom. Feedback on individual	Spanish Dance compositions uploaded to Google Classroom. Feedback on individual	West Side Story performed to peers who provide quality verbal feedback –

	instruments. Feedback on individual assessment tracker as WWW/EBI. Peer assessments recorded by students with guided language on Assessment Task Sheet.	assessment tracker as WWW/EBI. Peer assessments recorded by students with guided language on Assessment Quiet Tasks Sheet.	individual assessment tracker as WWW/EBI. Peer assessments recorded by students with guided language on Assessment Quiet Tasks Sheet.	assessment tracker as WWW/EBI. Peer assessments recorded by students with guided language on Assessment Task Sheet.	assessment tracker as WWW/EBI. Peer assessments recorded by students with guided language on Assessment Task Sheet.	plus written accounts on their assessment task sheets. Quality ensured through prompted language – reinforcing student literacy.
BREADTH <i>Opportunities, trips, wider reading, cultural capital</i>	Class contextual discussions: Emotional impact of deafness in later life on a composer – also struggles with poverty and family estrangement/abuse	Class contextual discussions: minimalist life, mindfulness and well-being. Meditation, melancholy etc.	Class contextual discussions: Music as a ‘selling’ strategy – discuss implications of ‘pay day loans’ adverts (“Sunny”)	Class contextual discussions: History of Jazz, gender equality and the success of female artists of colour. Spirituals and slavery, music as an emotional support/therapy	Class contextual discussions: Story of Carmen, feminism and gender equality, toxic masculinity. Europeanism – French language and Spanish Music.	Class contextual discussions: Immigration, racial conflict and prejudice – represented in musical fusion.
	House Music (Junior Choir and Orchestra open to Year 8) Jazz Band and LS Boys Choir advertise and welcome new members	Winter Extra Curricular launched (after HT) Junior Choir (7-8) and Christmas Concert Band for Carol Services Jazz Band rehearsals for the “Winter Warmer”	Extra-curricular groups continue, re-advertised for new membership and new repertoire – Spring Concert. Recruitment of young players into small ensembles (clarinet club etc)	Extra-curricular groups prepare for Spring Concert – presentation to audience of repertoire and celebration of achievements	Consolidation of Larger Extra-Curricular groups into School Choir and Concert Band. Year 8 Parent Consultation information	Extra-Curricular groups continue with focus on Summer Send-Off – which prioritises lower school soloists / duets. Concert to audience, and reflection on years Music EC Programme
KEY VOCABULARY <i>Important words and phrases</i>	Piano, forte, sustain pedal, dynamics, Romantic, Classical, Melody, Texture, broken chord and fluency.	Ostinato, crescendo, diminuendo, gradual change, texture, build and break, chord sequence, pentatonic		Genre, history, context, analysis, listening, harmony, melody, instrumentation, fusion	Binary structure, phrygian scale, contrast, polyrhythmic, cross-rhythms, ornamentation, opera	Compound Time, Off-beat, syncopation, cross-rhythm, strong pulse, melody, chords, hemiola and accent.