

Subject: Performing Arts (Music) Year 7 Curriculum Map 2025-2026

	Topics covered and core knowledge and skills	Links to careers	Resources Links
Halfterm 3	<p><u>Programme Music – Keyboard Skills</u></p> <p>This Programme Music scheme of work for Year 7 explores the captivating world of storytelling through music, focusing on three iconic works: Peer Gynt by Edvard Grieg, The Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint-Saëns, and a comprehensive study of the elements of music using the Dr Pat Smith Method. Pupils will investigate how composers utilise musical elements such as pitch, dynamics, rhythm, texture, and timbre to create vivid imagery and narratives. The unit begins with an in-depth exploration of Peer Gynt, examining how Grieg conveys scenes from Norwegian folklore and landscapes through music. Pupils will then analyse The Carnival of the Animals, uncovering Saint-Saëns' imaginative use of orchestration and characterful motifs to depict different animals. Throughout the scheme, the Dr Pat Smith Method will support pupils in developing a solid understanding of the elements of music, enhancing their ability to describe, analyse, and compose programme music.</p>	For careers, click here	Knowledge Organiser
Halfterm 4	<p>As part of their practical skills development, pupils will also focus on basic keyboard skills. They will learn to understand pitch and timbre while practising proper hand placement on the keyboard. Pupils will develop the ability to use both their right and left hands to perform and compose their own music, applying techniques learned in their analysis of the studied works.</p> <p>Core skills include recognising and applying musical elements such as contrasts in changes in tempo, and the use of instrumental timbres. Pupils will have the opportunity to create their own programme music inspired by narratives, characters, or scenes, using techniques and ideas drawn from the studied works. Listening and critical analysis skills will be emphasised, fostering an appreciation of how composers evoke emotions and tell stories through music.</p> <p>In addition to musical analysis, pupils will consider the cultural and historical contexts of each work, gaining insight into the influences that shaped Grieg's and Saint-Saëns' compositions. By engaging with these masterpieces, pupils will develop their ability to critically interpret music, articulate their understanding of its elements, and compose their own programme pieces. By the end of the scheme, pupils will have developed confidence in musical storytelling, enhanced their analytical and creative abilities, improved their keyboard skills, and cultivated a lasting appreciation for the evocative power of programme music.</p>	For careers, click here	Knowledge Organiser