

Subject: Performing Arts (Music) Year 8 Curriculum Map 2025-2026

	Topics covered and core knowledge and skills	Links to careers	Resources Links
Halfterm 3	<p><u>20th Century Music</u> This 20th Century Music scheme of work for Year 8 explores the innovative and transformative musical styles of Minimalism, Serialism, and Aleatoric Music. Pupils will delve into the characteristics and compositional techniques of each style, developing a deep understanding of their unique features and historical contexts. Through a combination of listening, analysis, composition, and performance activities, pupils will consolidate their knowledge and apply it creatively in all three styles.</p> <p>The unit begins with an exploration of Minimalism, where pupils will study its key features, including repetition, gradual change, and the use of simple motifs to create complex textures. They will analyse works by composers such as Steve Reich and Philip Glass, exploring how these pieces achieve hypnotic and evolving soundscapes.</p>	For careers, click here	Knowledge Organiser
Halfterm 4	<p>Next, pupils will engage with Serialism, focusing on Arnold Schoenberg's twelve-tone method and its emphasis on strict compositional structures. They will learn to construct tone rows and explore how Serialist techniques challenge traditional tonality.</p> <p>Finally, pupils will investigate Aleatoric Music, examining works by composers such as John Cage. They will explore the concept of chance in music-making and how it opens up creative possibilities by incorporating unpredictability and performer choice into compositions.</p> <p>Practical work will form a central part of the scheme. Pupils will compose and perform in each of the three styles, developing characteristics. They will be encouraged to experiment with minimalist repetition and phasing, create tone rows and Serialist structures, and incorporate elements of chance and improvisation into Aleatoric pieces.</p> <p>Core skills include building confidence in composition, expanding creative approaches to performance, and refining critical listening abilities. Pupils will also explore the historical and cultural contexts of these styles, considering how 20th Century composers challenged traditional norms and responded to societal changes through their music.</p> <p>By the end of the scheme, pupils will have a well-rounded understanding of Minimalism, Serialism, and Aleatoric Music. They will have developed their compositional and performance skills, gained insight into the bold innovations of 20th Century music, and cultivated an appreciation for the diverse and experimental approaches that defined this era.</p>	For careers, click here	Knowledge Organiser