

Home-School Learning Collaboration – Music



Topics in this cycle: Minimalism	Taught: Summer 1	Year Group: 8
Key knowledge/concepts to be learnt ('Tell me about...')		Websites/blogs/YouTube links and further reading to deepen and consolidate learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can I explain what the words <i>ostinato</i>, <i>phase-shifting</i> and <i>polyrhythm</i> mean? Students will listen to a piece of minimalism music, connect the music to minimalism in art, and compose their own rhythmic patterns in the minimalism style. • Can I generate simple musical ideas using the notes of a C major scale effectively? Students will build knowledge of how music can be layered, building texture, using simple melodic ideas. • Can I perform simple musical ideas using the notes of a C major scale effectively? Students will perform simple musical ideas, using Terry Riley's 'In C' as inspiration having already composed melodic material, using the C major scale as inspiration. • Can you work with a partner to play an established theme? Students will perform fragments of "Tubular Bells". They will develop knowledge of music-notation (odd time signature of 7/8) and review major and minor chords. • Can you perform a repeated idea as part of a whole class ensemble? Students will gain knowledge of Indonesian culture and the importance of the music (spiritual links). Students will listen and identify features. They will perform as part of a whole class ensemble; learning about the culture, features and the instruments used within Gamelan music. • Can you describe minimalism using appropriate musical language? An opportunity to review and consolidate knowledge of the musical elements. Students will describe musical excerpts using musical language. 		<p>The Minimalism of Adams, Reich and Riley BBC: The minimalist music of Adams, Reich and Riley - Minimalist music - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Terry Riley "In C" on YouTube: Terry Riley: In C - YouTube</p> <p>Minimalism and the mainstream: Minimalism In The Mainstream : NPR</p> <p>Steve Reich's Website: Home - Steve Reich Composer</p> <p>Learn to use Mixcraft: Beginners Guide to Mixcraft (1 of 2) - YouTube</p> <p>Online Virtual piano: Virtual Piano - Online Piano Keyboard OnlinePianist</p> <p>Musiclab: Chrome Music Lab (chromeexperiments.com)</p>

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Key Vocabulary and Definitions To Be Learnt		What Will The Assessment Look Like?
Triad-chord	Three notes played together at the same time, but importantly; the root, third and fifth notes in any key. (1, 3, 5.)	<p>Quality of musical outcome – Students will be marked on their technical, constructive, and expressive work.</p> <p>Literacy test: 30 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short answer questions • Multiple choice • Extended writing
Root note	The home (lowest) note in a root-position triad chord. In this case, the name of the chord is the same as its lowest note.	
Scale	A scale is a set of pitches ascending (rising) or descending (falling) in order.	
Tonal	Music with a tonic, or a home note on which music is steady and at rest.	
Atonal	Music that lacks a tonal centre, or key.	
Chromatic	Music that uses pitches that are in a scale, but also deliberate use of pitches that are not in the scale which sound interesting, dramatic or tense.	<p>Family Learning Opportunities</p> <p>Use an app on your digital device to “loop” a musical idea. Then change it slightly and try and repeat it in-time with your digital version. Invite friends and family to listen. Why not make it fun? Have them guess how long you can keep it going for!</p> <p>Listen to “Different Trains” by Steve Reich. Record or write a review giving your opinion on what you think the meaning of the track is.</p> <p>Listen to two pieces of Minimalist Music from the 1980s. Create a poster, presentation, blog or review comparing the musical features of both extracts. Try to differentiate between the compositional techniques used in each.</p>
Composer	Someone who writes music.	
Conductor	Someone who directs musicians. They often ‘beat’ the pulse and give expressive signals and cues.	
Timbre	The way an instrument or voice sounds: e.g. bight/metallic, hollow/wooden etc.	
Articulation	Whether the music is played smoothly (legato) or detached (staccato)	
Dynamics	The volume: Loud and quiet.	
Tempo	The speed of a piece of music.	
Orchestral families	The divisions of an orchestra: String, Brass, Woodwind, Percussion.	
Articulation	Whether the music is played smoothly (legato) or detached (staccato)	
Ostinato	Simply means a repeating phrase. (Sometimes “Riff” or “Loop” are used)	