



**Topic Overview - Music**  
**Year 7**  
**Unit 1 - Elements of Music**  
**and Performance skills**



**What BIG IDEAS will you cover in this topic?**

You will explore the elements of music through listening, composing, singing and performing activities.  
 You will develop ensemble skills and will learn to analyse and evaluate music using musical vocabulary.

**What important prior knowledge will you use from your prior learning?**

You will have had very different experiences of music in your primary schools. This scheme of work is differentiated in a way that will enable everyone to make progress, regardless of your starting points.

**Where does this topic fit into the curriculum plan for this subject?**

The knowledge and skills that you learn in this topic will help you with all your future learning in Music.

**What is the key vocabulary that you will need to know in this topic?**

Pitch, Tempo (including Italian terms), Dynamics (including Italian terms), Structure, Texture, Timbre, Duration, Beat, Rhythm, Ostinato, accuracy, expression, unison, ensemble

**What is the structure of learning/lessons in this topic?**

Exploring the Elements of music through listening and creating storm music

Using your voice and percussion instruments to perform in a variety of ensembles.

Learning to play chords on the ukulele and performing as an ensemble.

Listening to music and applying knowledge of the elements of music.

**What are the key concepts, knowledge and skills?**

- To be able to name and give definitions for each of the elements of music words.
- To develop vocal techniques through singing and chants.
- To develop performance, composition and ensemble skills, using ukuleles and percussion instruments

**How and when will you be assessed on this topic?**

**What will the success criteria be?**

HL will include elements of music revision.  
 Group performances will be assessed and regular feedback given.

**Secure:**

I can use the elements of music words to talk about features of music.  
 I can use the elements of music to compose and perform a piece of music to represent a Storm and can sing and perform in a variety of ensembles.

<b>A. Pitch</b> The highness or lowness of a sound.  	<b>B. Tempo</b> The speed of a sound or piece of music. <b>FAST:</b> <i>Allegro, Vivace, Presto</i> <b>SLOW:</b> <i>Andante, Adagio, Lento</i> <b>GETTING FASTER –</b> <i>Accelerando (accel.)</i> <b>GETTING SLOWER –</b> <i>Ritardando (rit.) or Rallentando (rall.)</i> 
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<b>C. Dynamics</b> The volume of a sound or piece of music. <b>VERY LOUD:</b> <i>Fortissimo (ff)</i> <b>LOUD:</b> <i>Forte (f)</i> <b>QUITE LOUD:</b> <i>Mezzo Forte (mf)</i> <b>QUITE SOFT:</b> <i>Mezzo Piano (mp)</i> <b>SOFT:</b> <i>Piano (p)</i> <b>VERY SOFT:</b> <i>Pianissimo (pp)</i> <b>GETTING LOUDER:</b> <i>Crescendo (cresc.)</i> <b>GETTING SOFTER:</b> <i>Diminuendo (dim.)</i> 	<b>D. Duration</b> The length of a sound.  <b>SHORT</b> → <b>LONG</b> 
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<b>E. Texture</b> How much sound we hear. <b>THIN TEXTURE:</b> ( <i>sparse/solo</i> ) – small amount of instruments or melodies.  <b>THICK TEXTURE:</b> ( <i>dense/layered</i> ) – lots of instruments or melodies.	<b>F. Timbre or Sonority</b> Describes the unique sound or tone quality of different instruments voices or sounds.  <i>Velvety, Screechy, Throaty, Rattling, Mellow, Chirpy, Brassy, Sharp, Heavy, Buzzing, Crisp, Metallic, Wooden etc.</i>
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<b>Beat</b> The <b>beat</b> is the regular pulse of the music. This can be fast or slow, but it will always be regular.  You 'keep the beat, with your feet'.  Try marching on the spot in-time to the music.	<b>Rhythm</b> <b>Rhythm</b> (tricky spelling - no vowels!) <b>Rhythm Helps Your Two Hips Move</b>  Rhythm can be described as long and short notes put together to create a pattern.
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**Topic Overview - Music**  
**Year 7**  
**Unit 2 - Notation and Keyboard Skills**



**What BIG IDEAS will you cover in this topic?**

You will learn about note values, how rhythms are created and performed and also how to read notation (treble clef). You will learn how to play simple tunes on the keyboard. If you have played the keyboard before, you will be challenged with more complex pieces, including pieces with sharps and flats and adding chords.

**What are the key concepts, knowledge and skills?**

Learning about pulse, rhythm, note values and notation. You will learn how to read and perform from notation. You will develop keyboard skills and will be expected to learn how to use the correct fingers, developing their ability to perform with accuracy and fluency. You will compose your own piece of pentatonic music.

**What important prior knowledge will you use from your prior learning?**

You may have learnt about notation in Primary School, or this may be new to you. You will become more confident in reading music.

**How and when will you be assessed on this topic?**

You will be assessed throughout the topic on your understanding of notation. Your keyboard progress will be monitored with continual feedback given. You will have a performance and composition assessment.

**Where does this topic fit into the curriculum plan for this subject?**

The knowledge and skills that you learn in this topic will help you with all your future learning in Music and will enable you to be able to read music.

**Secure:** I am able to perform simple tunes on the keyboard with good accuracy and fluency and can perform a simple left hand part.

**What is the key vocabulary that you will need to know in this topic?**

Pulse, beat, rhythm, semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver, semiquaver, time signature, staff, treble clef, time signature, metre, octave

**What is the structure of learning/lessons in this topic?**

Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4
Note Values	Rhythms	Notes on the staff	Keyboard skills
Lesson 5	Lesson 6	Lesson 7	
Keyboard skills	Keyboard skills	Keyboard performance	

Note	Number of beats	Name
	4	Semibreve
	2	Minim
	1	Crotchet
	1/2	Quaver
	1/4	Semiquaver
	= 1	2 quavers
	= 1	4 semiquavers

Notes on the staff

Every Good Boy Deserves Football  
 Every Green Bus Drives Fast

F A C E in the space

Remember: start at the bottom!!

Treble Clef Notes

C# D# F# G# A#  
 D<sub>b</sub> E<sub>b</sub> G<sub>b</sub> A<sub>b</sub> B<sub>b</sub>  
 C D E F G A B C



## Topic Overview - Music

Year 7

### Unit 3 - Pentatonic music and composition



#### What BIG IDEAS will you cover in this topic?

You will learn about the Pentatonic scale and will create your own composition using this scale. You will develop your performance skills by performing your composition with a focus on fluency and accuracy.

You will also learn about how Chinese and Gamelan music use Pentatonic scales and will perform music from these cultures within different ensembles.

#### What important prior knowledge will you use from your prior learning?

You will use all of the knowledge of note values and notation learnt in the last unit of work to create your composition.

#### Where does this topic fit into the curriculum plan for this subject?

This topic is important in developing your understanding of notation and allows you to explore your own creative ideas in your composition work.

#### What are the key concepts, knowledge and skills?

You will learn how to use your knowledge of music notation to create and develop your own compositions. You will learn how the Pentatonic scale is used in music from different cultures. You will learn how to use Sibelius software to notate your compositions.

#### How and when will you be assessed on this topic?

Your progress with your composition will be monitored with continual feedback given. You will have a performance and composition assessment.

**Secure:** I can write an 8 bar melody using the notes of the pentatonic scale. I can play the piece with some accuracy and can notate my composition. I can perform Shi-Fu's Flute with mainly good accuracy and fluency.

#### What is the key vocabulary that you will need to know in this topic?

time signatures, conjunct (stepwise) movement, pentatonic scale, drone, ostinato, scale, sharp, flat,

#### What is the structure of learning/lessons in this topic?

Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3
Introduction to the topic. Writing 8 bar rhythms.	8-bar rhythms and pentatonic composition.	Completing pentatonic composition.
Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lesson 6
Notation composition using Sibelius.	Chinese Pentatonic music.	Chinese Pentatonic music.

**1. Log on to the computer - eg. kacsim (123456Ab or your password if you have already used school computers). You will then be asked to change your password.**

**2. Type 'Sibelius' into the search bar at the bottom of the screen**

**3. Select the 'treble staff' page, or click 'create'**

**4. Zoom in to approx. 150% using slider on the bottom right corner of the screen**

**5. Select your first note value using the keypad (if your keypad disappears, go to 'view' and select 'keypad').**

**6. Place the note as far left in bar 1, on the correct line/space (eg. 2 beat C....)**

**7. Select your next note value, and place the note directly in line with the rest**

**8. If you select quavers (one tail), Sibelius will automatically join them together.**

**9. If you select 4 quavers, Sibelius will join them together.**

**10. To play your music, click on 'play' at the top, then press the green play button.**

**11. To save your work, click on 'File', 'Save as', 'This PC' - find the drive with the first 3 letters of your first name and first 3 of your second name - type 'pentatonic' as the file name and click save.**



**Topic Overview - Music**  
**Year 7**  
**Unit 4 - Pentatonic world music**



**What BIG IDEAS will you cover in this topic?**

You will develop your understanding of the pentatonic scale and will explore how Chinese and Gamelan music use Pentatonic scales and will perform music from these cultures within different ensembles.

**What are the key concepts, knowledge and skills?**

You will use your knowledge of music notation to create and develop your own compositions and will develop improvisation skills. You will learn how the Pentatonic scale is used in music from different cultures and will develop ensemble performance skills.

**What important prior knowledge will you use from your prior learning?**

You will use all of the knowledge of note values and notation learnt in previous units, and the skills that you developed during the pentatonic composition unit.

**Where does this topic fit into the curriculum plan for this subject?**

This topic is important in developing your understanding of world music and allows you to explore your own creative ideas in your composition work.

**How and when will you be assessed on this topic?**

Your progress throughout each lesson will be monitored with continual feedback given. You will have a group performance and composition assessment.

**Secure:** I can perform Shi-Fu's Flute with mainly good accuracy and fluency.

I can perform with my Gamelan ensemble with good accuracy and fluency.

I can improvise musical ideas using the pentatonic scale.

**What is the key vocabulary that you will need to know in this topic?**

time signatures, conjunct (stepwise) movement, pentatonic scale, drone, ostinato, scale, sharp, flat, improvisation, heterophonic, polyphonic. cyclic

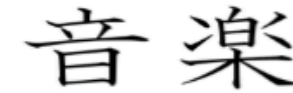
Chinese music: Pipa, Erhu, Dizi, Gong, Pengling

Gamelan music: Gamel, Slendro, Pelog, Balungan

**What is the structure of learning/lessons in this topic?**

Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3
Chinese Music	Gamelan Music	Gamelan Music
Lesson 4	Lesson 5	
Gamelan Music	Gamelan Music	

# Chinese Music



Traditional music in China is played on solo instruments or in small ensembles. Ensembles usually consist of plucked and bowed stringed instruments, flutes, and various cymbals, gongs, and drums.

The Chinese scale is pentatonic (five notes).

Bamboo pipes are among the oldest known musical instruments from China.

Since the end of the 20th century pop music in mainland China has experienced a rise in popularity. The beginning of the 21st century has seen mainland Chinese artists producing a wide range of Mandarin pop songs and the release of many new albums.

**Key words:**

**Solo** - one instrument/voice playing on it's own

**Ensemble** - a group of instruments/voices playing together

**Plucked** - where the strings are 'plucked' with the fingers

**Bowed** - where the strings are played with a bow

**Scale** - a series of notes going up (ascending) and down (descending)

**Pentatonic** - a set of 5 notes (*pent* means 5)

## Gamelan Music - Facts

A **gamelan** orchestra consists mostly of metal percussion instruments: gongs, metallophones, glockenspiels and drums.

There are lots of different types of these instruments in Indonesia with different names.



Bamboo flutes, simple string instruments and vocalists can be used, but the main instruments are percussion.

All **Gamelan orchestras** in Indonesia will be different, making each one unique.

The instruments are kept together as a set.

**Gamelan music** is used to accompany performances such as **dance plays** and is an important part of **celebrations** and **community life**.



The word **gamel** means hammer.