

Mill Hill Primary Academy - Knowledge Progression Ladder for Music



Music Progression Knowledge	Pitch	Duration	Dynamics	Тетро	Timbre	Texture	Structure	Notation
EYFS	What 'high' and 'low' notes are.	Different sounds can be long or short.	Instruments can be played loudly or softly.	 To recognise music that is 'fast' or 'slow'. We can match our body movements to the speed (tempo) or pulse (beat) of music. 	Different instruments can sound like a particular character.	Music often has more than one instrument being played at a time.	Recognise the chorus in a familiar song	Signals can tell us when to start or stop playing.
Year 1	 Pitch means how high or low a note sounds. 'tuned' instruments play more than one pitch of notes. 	Rhythm means a pattern of long and short notes.	 Dynamics means how loud or soft a sound is. Sounds can be adapted to change their mood, eg through dynamics. 	 The 'pulse' is the steady beat that goes through music. The tempo is the speed of the music. 	 'timbre' means the quality of a sound Our voice can create different timbres to help tell a story. 	Music has layers called 'texture'.	A piece of music can have more than one section, eg a versed and a chorus.	Music can be represented by pictures or symbols.
Year 2	 Some tuned instruments have a lower range of pitches and some have a higher range of pitches. A melody is made up from high and low pitched notes 	 'duration' means how long a note, phrase or whole piece of music lasts. The long and short sounds of a spoken phrase can be represented by a rhythm. 	Dynamics can change the effect a sound has on the audience.	The tempo of a musical phrase can be changed to achieve a different effect.	 Musical instruments can be used to create 'real life' sound effects. An instrument can be matched to an animal noise based on its timbre. 	• A graphic score can show a picture of the layers, or 'texture', of a piece of music.	Structure means the organisation of sounds within music, eg a chorus and verse pattern in a song.	 'notation' means writing music down so that someone else can play it A graphic score can show a picture of the structure and / or texture of music.





	played one after the other, making a tune.						
Year 3	 The group of pitches in a song is called its 'key' and that a key decides whether a song sounds happy or sad. Some traditional music around the world is based on fivenotes called a 'pentatonic' scale. A pentatonic melody uses only the five notes C D E G A. 	Different notes have different durations, and that crotchets are worth one whole beat. Written music tells you how long to play a note for	• 'crescendo' means a sound getting gradually louder.	The timbre of instruments played affect the mood and style of a piece of music.	Many types of music from around the world consist of more than one layer of sound; for example a 'tala' and 'rag' in traditional Indian music.	A ballad, a 'stanza' means a verse. Music from different places often has different structural features, eg traditional Chinese music is based on the five-note pentatonic scale.	• 'reading' music means using how the written note symbols look and their position to know what notes to play.





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Year 4	 A bass line is the lowest pitch line of notes in a piece of music, and a walking bassline (where patterns of notes go up then down again) is common in rock and roll. A glissando in music means a sliding effect played on instruments or made by your voice. 'transposing' a melody means changing its key, making it 	 Combining different instruments playing different rhythms creates layers of sound called 'texture'. Playing 'in time' requires playing the notes for the correct duration as well as at the correct speed. A motif in music can be a repeated rhythm. 	Changing the dynamics of a musical phrase or motif can change the texture of a piece of music.	Playing in time means all performers playing together at the same speed.	Grouping instruments according to their timbre can create contrasting 'textures' in music. Instruments and voices can create audio effects that describe something you can see.	Combining different instruments and different rhythms when we compose can create layers of sound we call 'texture' Harmony means playing two notes at the same time, which usually sound good together.	Deciding the structure of music when composing can help us create interesting music with contrasting sections. An ostinato is a musical pattern that is repeated over and over; a vocal ostinato is a pattern created with your voice. Musical motifs (repeating patterns) are used as a building block in many well-known pieces of music	'performance directions' are words added to music notation to tell the performers how to play
Year 5	higher or lower pitched. • A minor key	'poly-rhythms'	Varying effects	A slow tempo	Human voices have	• A chord is	S loop is a	• Simple pictures
rear 3	 A minor key (pitch) can be used to make music sound sad. Major chords create a 	 poly-rnythms means many different rhythms played at once. The duration of a note or phrase in music can be 	can be created using only your voice, for example by changing the pitch, dynamic	 A slow tempo can be used to make music sound sad. Varying effects can be created using only your voice, for example by 	their own individual timbre, and that this can be adapted by using the voice in different ways.	• A chord is the layering of several pitches played at the same time.	repeated rhythm or melody, and is another word for ostinato.	• Simple pictures can be used to represent the structure (organisation) of music.





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	bright, happy sound. • A 'bent note' is a note that varies in its pitch, eg the pitch may slide up or down. • Varying effects can be created using only your voice, for example by changing the pitch, dynamic or tempo of the sounds made.	shown using a repeated symbol or the size of a symbol on a graphic score.	or tempo of the sounds made.	changing the pitch, dynamic or tempo of the sounds made.		Poly-rhythms means many rhythms played at once.	12-bar Blues is a sequence of 12 bars of music, made up of three different chords.	In written staff notation, notes can go on or between lines, and that the lines show the pitch of the note.
Year 6	 The Solfa syllables represent the pitches in an octave. 'major' key signatures use note pitches that sound cheerful and upbeat. 'minor' key signatures use note pitches that can 	 All types of music notation show note duration, including the Kodaly method which uses syllables to indicate rhythms. Representing beats of silence or 'rests' in written music is important as it helps us play rhythms correctly. A quaver is worth half a beat 	A melody can be adapted by changing its dynamics.	A melody can be adapted by changing its dynamics, pitch or tempo.	Timbre can also be thought of as 'tone colour' and can be described in many ways eg warm or cold, rich or bright.	 Texture can be created by adding or removing instruments in a piece and can create the effect of dynamic change. A countermelody is different to harmony because it 	 A chord progression is a sequence of chords that repeats throughout a song. A 'theme' in music is the main melody and that 'variations' are when this melody has been changed in some way. 	'graphic notation' means writing music down using your choice of pictures or symbols but 'staff notation' means music written more formally on the special lines called 'staves'. Chord progressions are represented in





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