Year 7 Curriculum Road Map

01

Unit 1
Band Skills

Students will understand the different elements of popular music and how to work effectively in an ensemble setting. They will learn about major and minor chords, riffs and hooks, and melody and accompaniment. They will also be developing their group work skills, communication skills, and independent learning skills. There will be a heavy emphasis on effective rehearsal skills, as this is one of the key elements of this unit. Students will also develop their instrumental skills throughout, using keyboards, drums, percussion, guitars, bass guitars and vocals.

02

Unit 2
Western Classical Tradition

Students will be learning about Western Classical Music of three eras; Baroque, Classical, and Romanic. This will consist of studying one piece from each of the eras, with these being Pachelbel's Canon, Ode To Joy, and In The Hall Of The Mountain King. Each piece will have a different focus, alongside studying the musical features of these periods. These focuses will be group timing, keyboard skills, and accidentals respectively. There should be a heavy emphasis on the musical features of each of the periods of music, and students should be comfortable with when these were, what the differences are, and some cultural and historical context.

03

Unit 3
Music for Film, TV and Games

Students will be studying and understanding the elements of music through the genre of Film/TV/ Computer game music. Students will explore traditional notation reading understanding pitch direction and working in pairs to perform music from different games and films. This will require students to collaborate in pairs, but also develop their independent working skills. There will be an emphasis on vocabulary, compositional devices, music analysis, and technique.

04

Unit 4
African Music

Students will be exploring different key elements of African Vocal and Instrumental Music through performance-based activities. This includes key terms such as Call and Response, Acapella, Polyrhythm, Ostinato and Master Drummer. There will be an emphasis on rhythm, compositional devices, vocal techniques and ensemble skills. Students will have an awareness of social, historical and geographical context behind each song studied. They will understand the different types of African instruments and the role they play in a traditional setting.

05

Unit 5
Programme Music

Students will be learning about Programme Music and Instruments of the Orchestra through performance and composition-based activities. Students will explore pieces by Prokofiev and Saint-Saëns, understanding key terms such as leitmotif, brass, strings, percussion and woodwind. Students will apply their understanding of Programme Music to group and individual composition tasks.

06

Unit 6
Musical Mashups

Students will be furthering their study of following musical notation, chord sheets and developing their ensemble skills. The focus will be on using and following music sheets in order to play different songs. This is an important skill for a musician and should be presented to the students as such. The songs that they will be learning will be differentiated and increasing in difficulty. Students will then choose 2-4 songs and in groups create a mashup. Students will be allowed to complete the mashup project on keyboards, ukulele, guitar, drums or vocalists. There will be an emphasis on rehearsal skills and feedback as they develop their mashups.

JOHN MADEJSKI ACADEMY