



Music: Year 8 Overview

Topic 1: Samba

Students learn the core features of Samba Drumming music and learn about its origin and context. They develop their Brazilian percussion skills and use these skills to compose their own pieces performances.

Topic 2: Danse Macabre Composing

Students step back in time to the life of a Romantic Composer. They learn basic composing techniques to create a piece of music inspired by 'Danse Macabre' a poem about the Dance of Death. They learn to develop melodies and combine notes to create a specific mood and feel.

Topic 3: Band Skills – Riffs and Hooks

In this unit students develop an understanding of what makes a hit pop song. They explore a variety of instruments, and develop performing skills on their chosen instrument. They further develop their leadership and teamwork skills by applying their performance skills as part of a band.

Topic 4: Film Music

This unit continues to develop students composing skills and their understanding of how to use the musical elements to create expressive music. They will learn about the famous composer John Williams and use his techniques to create their own composition to a piece of film.

Topic 5: The Blues

Students look at the history and context in which the blues originated. They develop an understanding of the timeline of musical history, and look at the musical characteristics of this style. They develop their own performance of the blues in small groups or pairs demonstrating their knowledge of the style.