



Music: Year 8 Overview

Topic 1: Samba – 6 Weeks

Students explore the dynamic genre of Samba, learning about its Brazilian origins and cultural significance. Through hands-on practice, they develop skills in Brazilian percussion and apply their knowledge to compose and perform original Samba-inspired pieces, fostering creativity, teamwork and rhythmic precision.

Topic 2: Band Skills – Riffs and Hooks – 9 Weeks

In this unit, students investigate the essential components of popular music, focusing on riffs and hooks that make songs memorable. They select an instrument to study in-depth and enhance their performance abilities, culminating in a group performance that emphasizes teamwork, communication, and leadership within a band setting.

Topic 3: The Blues – 9 Weeks

Students delve into the historical and cultural roots of the Blues, examining its evolution and impact on modern music. They learn characteristic features such as the 12-bar blues structure and blue notes, applying this knowledge to develop a small group or paired performance, reflecting their understanding of the genre's distinctive style.

Topic 4: Film Music – 10 Weeks

This unit advances students' composition skills as they explore the role of music in film. They study techniques used by renowned composer John Williams to create emotional impact in scores. Students then apply these methods to compose an original piece that accompanies a film clip, focusing on conveying mood and atmosphere.

Topic 5: The Musical Elements – 5 Weeks

Through workshop-style lessons, students revisit core musical elements in depth. They create both individual and group compositions, demonstrating each element's role within a musical piece. The unit emphasizes the integration of theoretical knowledge and practical performance, reinforcing foundational musical skills.