

Instrumental Performance and Percussion Progression

At The Gordon Children's Academy, instrumental performance and percussion develop progressively through the Sing Up Music curriculum. Pupils begin by exploring body percussion and untuned instruments before progressing to more complex rhythmic patterns, ensemble playing, composition and performance. Opportunities to play classroom percussion are embedded throughout the curriculum, with additional whole-class instrumental units providing further depth and challenge.

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Knowledge - Understand that instruments can make different sounds. - Recognise and respond to a steady pulse. - Know that sounds can be loud, quiet, fast and slow.	Knowledge - Know the difference between pulse and rhythm. - Recognise a range of classroom percussion instruments. - Understand basic performance expectations such as starting and stopping together.	Knowledge - Understand that rhythms are patterns of long and short sounds. - Know how to hold and play classroom percussion correctly. - Begin to understand simple notation and graphic scores.	Knowledge - Understand crotchets, quavers and rests in simple rhythmic patterns. - Know the difference between tuned and untuned percussion. - Begin reading and performing from simple notation.	Knowledge - Understand how rhythmic patterns support structure in music. - Recognise a wider range of musical notation. - Understand ensemble roles and performance responsibilities.	Knowledge - Understand syncopation and more complex rhythmic structures. - Know how percussion is used in a variety of musical traditions and genres. - Understand how notation supports performance.	Knowledge - Understand how rhythmic features create musical style and expression. - Recognise advanced rhythmic notation and structures. - Understand how percussion contributes to ensemble balance and texture.
Skills Explore sounds using body percussion and	Skills Maintain a steady pulse.	Skills Perform simple rhythmic ostinatos.	Skills Maintain an independent	Skills Read and perform more complex	Skills Perform syncopated and	Skills Perform complex rhythms

simple instruments. • Keep a steady beat through movement, clapping and tapping. • Follow simple musical instructions. • Perform as part of a group.	• Perform simple rhythm patterns using body percussion and untuned percussion. • Follow a conductor's signals. • Play alongside others with increasing control.	• Play rhythms accurately on untuned percussion. • Create and perform simple percussion accompaniments. • Work as part of a percussion ensemble.	part within an ensemble. • Perform increasingly complex rhythms. • Compose and perform percussion patterns. • Improvise rhythmic ideas.	rhythmic notation. • Maintain a contrasting part within a group performance. • Use dynamics and tempo changes effectively. • Perform with accuracy and confidence.	layered rhythms. • Improvise confidently within a group. • Maintain independent parts in ensemble performances. • Compose rhythmic accompaniments using notation.	fluently and accurately. • Lead and support ensemble performances. • Compose and perform multi-layered percussion pieces. • Evaluate and refine performances using musical vocabulary.
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Additional Performance Opportunities

Pupils further develop instrumental and performance skills through:

- School performances and productions
- Choir
- Young Voices
- MMA Choral Festivals
- Royal Opera and Ballet workshops and performances
- External music and theatre visits

These opportunities allow pupils to apply their learning in authentic performance contexts and develop confidence as musicians.