









Music Vocabulary Progression

NB: If underlined = New vocabulary for the year

<u>Year 3</u>	
dynamic	How loud or soft to play the music
timbre	The quality of a sound or tone played on an instrument
pitch	How high or low the sound is
repeated	Sounds or sequences that are played again and again
notation	A set of symbols that represent musical sounds
ensemble	A French word used to describe playing/singing/performing together
compose/ composition	Making or forming a piece of music by combining the parts or elements of music
influence	A musician or type of music that affects what you do
rhythm	A pattern of sounds of different lengths
key	The major or minor scale around which a piece of music revolves
pentatonic	A musical scale with five notes per octave
tempo	The speed of music- how fast or slow the pulse is
melody	Often referred to as the tune
crotchet	A musical note with the time value of one beat 
minim	A musical note with the time value of 2 (crotchet) beats 
quaver	A musical note with the time value of a half a beat 
crescendo	An Italian word meaning gradually getting louder
ballad	A poem often set to music, usually sentimental and romantic in character
jazz	A fusion of African and European music developed in USA in early 20th Century
ragtime	A musical style that has a syncopated or 'ragged' rhythm
motif	A small collection of notes that captures the essence or idea of a piece of music
Scat singing	A style of singing where the singer replaces nonsense syllables for the words

	of a song and tries to sound like a musical instrument
syncopation	Playing rhythms that emphasise the 'offbeats'
Bollywood	Hindi film music
tabla	<p>A percussion instrument of North India - 2 separate small drums played with fingers and palms</p> 
tala	A repeating rhythm pattern played by the tabla
drone	Long sounds such as notes and chords, usually low in pitch
sitar	<p>A plucked stringed instrument used in North Indian classical music</p> 
tanpura	A long- necked four- stringed instrument from India

Year 4

<u>dynamic</u>	How loud or soft to play the music
structure	The order that different sections of a song or piece of music are played in
<u>pitch</u>	How high or low the sound is
loop	Repeating sections of music
<u>notation</u>	A set of symbols that represent musical sounds
<u>ensemble</u>	A French word used to describe playing/singing/performing together
<u>compose/</u> <u>composition</u>	Making or forming a piece of music by combining the parts or elements of music
<u>texture</u>	Different layers of sound in a piece of music
body percussion	Using your body to create rhythm
key signature	Tells you which sharps and flats to play in a piece of music
harmony	The sound of 2 or more notes played simultaneously that go well together
<u>tempo</u>	The speed of music- how fast or slow the pulse is
melody	Often referred to as the tune
<u>crotchet</u>	A musical note with the time value of one beat 
dotted minim	A musical note with the time value of 3 (crotchet) beats 
semibreve	A musical note with the time value of 4 (crotchet) beats 
quavers	A musical note with the time value of half a (crotchet) beat 
<u>crescendo</u>	An Italian word meaning gradually getting louder
a cappella	Where people sing without instruments
ostinato	Short, repetitive rhythmic pattern
Glissando	A way of gliding or flowing from one note to the next
col legno	Striking the strings with the stick of a bow across the strings
pizzicato	A playing technique that means plucking the strings of a stringed instrument


agogo	Instrument of 2 metal bells hit with a stick
surdo	A large bass drum
repinique	A large, loud high-pitched drum used to play lead rhythms in samba
ganza	A brazilian rattle used as a percussion instrument in samba music
caixa	A small snare drum
chocalho	A Brazilian rattle used as a percussion instrument
cowbell	A hand percussion instrument
syncopation	Playing rhythms that emphasise the 'offbeats'
lyrics	The words of a song
riff	A short repeated phrase in pop music and jazz
unison	Two or more sounds at the same pitch together or simultaneously
bass line	The lowest part of a musical arrangements
transpose	Changing the pitch of a musical work but not changing the relationship of the notes
metronome	An instrument used to mark exact time by a repeated regular click
rock and roll	A style of popular dance music that begin in America in the 1950's, which often has a heavy beat and simple melodies
hand jive	A dance from the 1950's with a complicated pattern of hand moves
samba	South American music style performed with lots of percussion instruments




Year 5

<u>dynamic</u>	How loud or soft to play the music
<u>structure</u>	The order that different sections of a song or piece of music are played in
<u>timbre</u>	The quality of a sound or tone played on an instrument
<u>loop</u>	Repeating sections of music
<u>notation</u>	A set of symbols that represent musical sounds
<u>ensemble</u>	A French word used to describe playing/singing/performing together
<u>compose/ composition</u>	Making or forming a piece of music by combining the parts or elements of music
minor key	A minor chord would consist of D, F and A and can sound sad
<u>body percussion</u>	Using your body to create rhythm
scale	A group of notes arranged by ascending or descending order of pitch
bent notes	A musical note that is varied in pitch (think Mariah!)
<u>tempo</u>	The speed of music- how fast or slow the pulse is
<u>melody</u>	Often referred to as the tune
chord	A combination of 3 or more notes
bar	One small section of music that holds a number of beats
Blues	Sad melodies, popular in the 1920's, often slow and emotional
poly-rhythms	Simultaneous use of 2 or more rhythms
<u>a cappella</u>	Where people sing without instruments
synesthesia	When someone experiences one of their senses through another
transitions	A passage of music composed to link one section of music to another
backbeat	The rhythmic pattern that sets the beat for a song
remix	A new version of a piece of music created by putting together the individual vocal and instrumental parts in a different way
graphic score	Another way of notating music or sounds on a page, such as pictures
operetta	An opera that is not too serious and mixes song with dialogue and dance
libretto	A text that which are set to music to make an opera
<u>syncopation</u>	Playing rhythms that emphasise the 'offbeats'

<u>riff</u>	A short repeated phrase in pop music and jazz
<u>unison</u>	Two or more sounds at the same pitch together or simultaneously
<u>metronome</u>	An instrument used to mark exact time by a repeated regular click

Year 6

<u>dynamic</u>	How loud or soft to play the music
<u>structure</u>	The order that different sections of a song or piece of music are played in
<u>harmony</u>	The sound of 2 or more notes played simultaneously that go well together
texture	Different layers of sound in a piece of music
<u>notation</u>	A set of symbols that represent musical sounds
<u>ensemble</u>	A French word used to describe playing/singing/performing together
<u>compose/</u> <u>composition</u>	Making or forming a piece of music by combining the parts or elements of music
<u>minor key</u> <u>major key</u>	A minor chord would consist of D, F and A and can sound sad A major chord would consist of C, E and G and sounds bright, cheerful and happy
<u>body percussion</u>	Using your body to create rhythm
<u>unison</u>	Two or more sounds at the same pitch together or simultaneously
<u>pitch</u>	How high or low the sound is
<u>tempo</u>	The speed of music- how fast or slow the pulse is
<u>melody</u>	Often referred to as the tune
<u>chord</u>	A combination of 3 or more notes
modulate	To change the pitch of something
chromatic	A musical scale in which the notes follow each other in semitones
phrase	A series of notes that communicates a musical idea
diaphragm	A thin dome-shaped muscle that helps you breathe and separates the lungs from the stomach and intestines
<u>motif</u>	A small collection of notes that captures the essence or idea of a piece of music
counter-melody	A sequence of notes played simultaneously with another more prominent lead melody
<u>conductor</u>	A person who directs the performance of an orchestra or choir, using hand signals.
<u>quaver</u>	A musical note with the time value of a half a beat 

semi-quaver	A musical note with the time value of a quarter of a beat 
<u>crescendo</u>	An Italian word meaning gradually getting louder
solfa	Seven notes of the scale named do, ray, me, fah, soh, lah, te, do
accelerando	A piece of music that should be played with increasing tempo
tremolo	A musical effect that resembles quivering or trembling
staccato	Short and detached notes
legato	A smooth steady flow between notes
allegro	A tempo marking meant to be played fast, quickly and bright
ritartando	A gradual slowing of tempo
largo	Music that should be performed at a slow tempo
forte	A musical dynamic meaning loudly or strong
diminuendo	Gradually decrease loudness
<u>pizzicato</u>	A playing technique that means plucking the strings of a stringed instrument
brass	Orchestral instruments such as trumpet, French horn, tuba and trombone
woodwind	A family of instruments such as flute, clarinet and oboe
timpani	Kettledrums
accidentals	A symbol used to raise or lower the pitch such as flat  or sharp 
stave notation	A collection of lines onto which notes are placed on a musical score
<u>graphic score</u>	Images, shapes or pictures instead of notes