

# ■ Primary Assembly Music Listening Planner

## Autumn Term – Exploring the Elements of Music

Week	Piece of Music	Key Teaching Points / Facts
1	Beethoven – Symphony No. 5 (1st movement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The famous 4-note motif is sometimes called 'Fate knocking at the door.'</li> </ul> <p><small>Beethoven was losing his hearing when he wrote this piece.</small></p>
2	Vivaldi – The Four Seasons: Autumn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vivaldi wrote one concerto for each season of the year.</li> <li>This piece describes a harvest celebration and dancing.</li> </ul>
3	Saint-Saëns – Carnival of the Animals: The Aquarium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The flowing music represents fish swimming in water.</li> </ul> <p><small>The Emperor only allowed this piece to be performed after his death!</small></p>
4	Pachelbel – Canon in D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Canon' means the same tune is played by different instruments at different times.</li> <li>It's one of the most popular wedding pieces in the world.</li> </ul>
5	Mozart – Eine Kleine Nachtmusik	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The title means 'A Little Night Music' in German.</li> <li>Mozart wrote this in one evening for friends to play together.</li> </ul>
6	Holst – The Planets: Jupiter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each movement is named after a planet and its character.</li> <li>The melody from 'Jupiter' became the hymn 'I Vow to Thee, My Country.'</li> </ul>
7	African Drumming (West Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The djembe drum is carved from a single tree trunk.</li> <li>Drummers often 'talk' to each other with rhythms instead of words.</li> </ul>
8	Chinese Guzheng Solo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The guzheng is a 21-string instrument played with finger picks.</li> <li>It has been played in China for over 2,000 years.</li> </ul>
9	The Beatles – Here Comes the Sun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written by George Harrison while sitting in a garden in spring.</li> <li>The Beatles are the best-selling music act in history.</li> </ul>
10	Bob Marley – Three Little Birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The song's message is 'don't worry, everything will be alright.'</li> <li>Marley helped make reggae famous worldwide.</li> </ul>
11	Handel – Music for the Royal Fireworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written for King George II to celebrate peace in 1749.</li> <li>At the first performance, real fireworks caused a fire!</li> </ul>
12	Tchaikovsky – Nutcracker: Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The celeste (keyboard instrument) makes the magical bell-like sound.</li> <li><small>Sugar Plum Fairy</small> especially popular at Christmas.</li> </ul>

## Spring Term – Music Across Cultures & Traditions

Week	Piece of Music	Key Teaching Points / Facts
1	Indian Raga (Sitar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A raga is a pattern of notes used for improvising music.</li> <li>Sitars can have 18–20 strings!</li> </ul>
2	Japanese Taiko Drumming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Taiko' means 'big drum.'</li> <li>Players use their whole bodies, making it look like dancing.</li> </ul>
3	Scottish Bagpipes – Traditional Reel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bagpipes use air stored in a bag to make continuous sound.</li> <li>They are often played at parades and celebrations.</li> </ul>
4	Samba Batucada (Brazil)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Samba music is linked to Brazilian carnival parades.</li> <li>Percussion groups can have 100+ drummers playing together.</li> </ul>
5	Duke Ellington – Take the A Train	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Named after a subway line in New York City.</li> <li>Ellington's band was one of the most famous jazz orchestras in history.</li> </ul>

6	Gospel Choir – Oh Happy Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gospel music grew out of African American church traditions.</li> <li>• This song became a worldwide hit in 1969.</li> </ul>
7	Flamenco Guitar Solo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flamenco comes from southern Spain and mixes song, dance, and guitar.</li> <li>• Performers often shout '¡Olé!' to cheer each other on.</li> </ul>
8	Middle Eastern Oud Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The oud is a pear-shaped string instrument, older than the guitar.</li> <li>• It can create very emotional sounds.</li> </ul>
9	Aboriginal Didgeridoo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The didgeridoo is one of the world's oldest instruments (over 1,500 years old).</li> <li>• Players use 'circular breathing' to play without stopping.</li> </ul>
10	Stevie Wonder – Superstition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Famous for its funky rhythm and use of the clavinet keyboard.</li> <li>• Stevie Wonder has been blind since birth but became a world superstar.</li> </ul>
11	Mexican Mariachi Band	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mariachi music uses trumpets, violins, and guitars.</li> <li>• Traditionally played at weddings, birthdays, and festivals.</li> </ul>
12	Pentatonix – Hallelujah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An a cappella group – they sing without instruments.</li> <li>• Every sound you hear is made by voices, even the 'drums.'</li> </ul>

## Summer Term – Musical Storytelling & Expression

Week	Piece of Music	Key Teaching Points / Facts
1	Prokofiev – Peter and the Wolf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each character has its own instrument (e.g. the duck = oboe).</li> <li>• Written to teach children about the orchestra.</li> </ul>
2	Mussorgsky – Pictures at an Exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspired by paintings of the composer's friend.</li> <li>• The music takes you on a 'walk' through an art gallery.</li> </ul>
3	Grieg – In the Hall of the Mountain King	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The music starts quietly and gets louder and faster.</li> <li>• It tells the story of a boy sneaking past trolls.</li> </ul>
4	John Williams – Star Wars Main Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Williams wrote music for over 100 films.</li> <li>• The brass fanfare makes the music sound heroic.</li> </ul>
5	Hans Zimmer – The Lion King: Circle of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combines African musical influences with film score.</li> <li>• Performed live on stage in the West End musical.</li> </ul>
6	Britten – Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows off every instrument in the orchestra.</li> <li>• Especially for school children in 1946.</li> </ul>
7	Debussy – Clair de Lune	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Clair de Lune' means 'light of the moon' in French.</li> <li>• The music paints a calm, dreamy picture.</li> </ul>
8	Copland – Fanfare for the Common Man	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written during World War II to celebrate ordinary people.</li> <li>• Uses only brass and percussion instruments.</li> </ul>
9	Miles Davis – So What	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A famous jazz trumpet player who changed jazz many times.</li> <li>• The band makes up much of the music on the spot (improvisation).</li> </ul>
10	Ed Sheeran – Perfect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written as a romantic love song for his wife.</li> <li>• Ed Sheeran started out singing in small pubs before becoming famous.</li> </ul>
11	The Sound of Music – Do-Re-Mi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The song teaches the notes of the musical scale.</li> <li>• From a musical that is still popular 60 years after it was written.</li> </ul>
12	World Medley (chosen by classes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each class picks one favourite song to share.</li> <li>• Celebrates diversity and children's musical choices.</li> </ul>