

■ 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"> The famous 4-note motif is sometimes called 'Fate knocking at the door.' Beethoven was losing his hearing when he wrote this piece.
2	Vivaldi – The Four Seasons: Autumn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vivaldi wrote one concerto for each season of the year. This piece describes a harvest celebration and dancing.
3	Saint-Saëns – Carnival of the Animals: The Aquarium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The flowing music represents fish swimming in water. The Aquarius zodiac sign was only allowed this piece to be performed after his death!
4	Pachelbel – Canon in D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Canon' means the same tune is played by different instruments at different times. It's one of the most popular wedding pieces in the world.
5	Mozart – Eine Kleine Nachtmusik	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The title means 'A Little Night Music' in German. Mozart wrote this in one evening for friends to play together.
6	Holst – The Planets: Jupiter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each movement is named after a planet and its character. The melody from 'Jupiter' became the hymn 'I Vow to Thee, My Country.'
7	African Drumming (West Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The djembe drum is carved from a single tree trunk. Drummers often 'talk' to each other with rhythms instead of words.
8	Chinese Guzheng Solo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The guzheng is a 21-string instrument played with finger picks. It has been played in China for over 2,000 years.
9	The Beatles – Here Comes the Sun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written by George Harrison while sitting in a garden in spring. The Beatles are the best-selling music act in history.
10	Bob Marley – Three Little Birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The song's message is 'don't worry, everything will be alright.' Marley helped make reggae famous worldwide.
11	Handel – Music for the Royal Fireworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written for King George II to celebrate peace in 1749. At the first performance, real fireworks caused a fire!
12	Tchaikovsky – Nutcracker: Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The celeste (keyboard instrument) makes the magical bell-like sound. The piece is especially popular at Christmas.

Spring Term – Music Across Cultures & Traditions

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

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

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