

PETER AND THE WOLF

QSO
LEARNING
/2017

70



Queensland Symphony
Orchestra

Alondra de la Parra | Music Director

The story of Peter and the Wolf by Serge Prokofiev

Early one morning, Peter opened the gate and walked out into the big green meadow.



Meet the Characters – Peter is portrayed by the String Family

Meet the Instruments – String Family

Peter is represented by the string family - the violin, viola, cello and double bass. The string family is the largest section of the orchestra and they sit at the front. All the instruments are made of wood and have four strings, but they are different sizes and have different ranges of sounds.

The violin is the smallest and highest sounding of the instruments. The viola is larger and, like the violin, is held under the chin. The cello is larger still and sits on the floor in front of the player. The double bass is the largest and makes the deepest sounds. The player stands or sits on a high stool to play.



Meet the Music - Peter's theme

A **bow**, made of horsehair stretched tightly on a wooden frame, is drawn across the strings to make the sound. The strings can also be plucked with the fingers. The vibration of the string makes the sound.



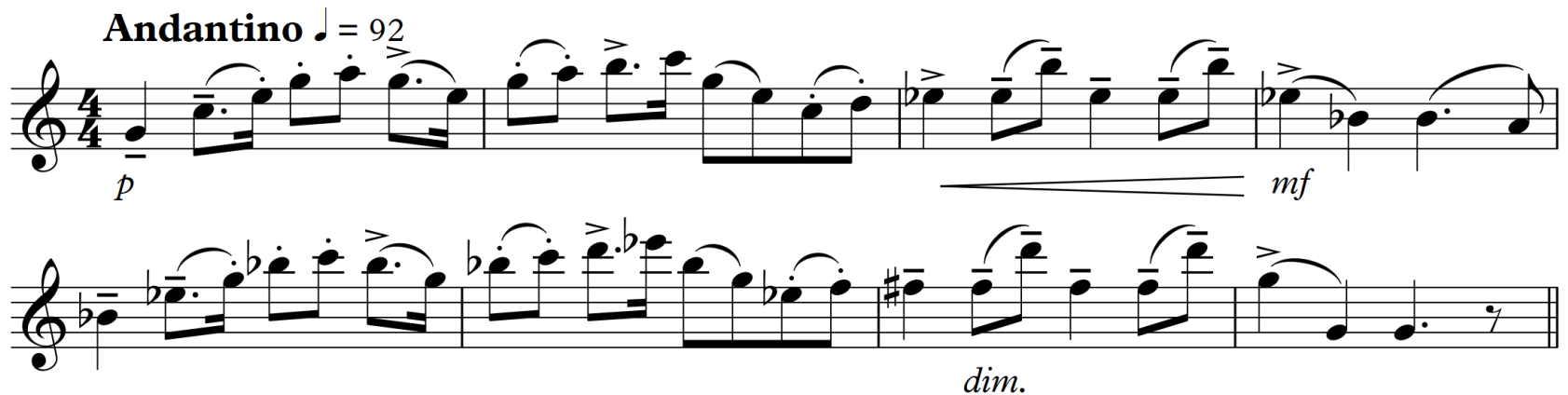
ARCO – play with the bow

PIZZICATO – pluck the strings with the fingers

Click on the violin
then press play
to hear the theme



Andantino ♩ = 92



p *mf* *dim.*

The story of Peter and the Wolf - continued

On a branch of a big tree sat a little bird,
Peter's friend. "All is quiet" chirped the bird
happily.



Meet the Characters – The bird is portrayed by the flute

Meet the Instrument – Flute

The flute is one of the earliest types of musical instruments.

The sound is produced by blowing air across an opening and different notes are achieved by pressing fingers over holes along the length of the instrument. The flute has keys, which cover the holes. In the orchestra, the flute is a member of the woodwind family.

Other members of the woodwind family are oboe, clarinet and bassoon.



The **Piccolo** is half the size of the flute and plays one octave higher. The piccolo and the flute are played with the same fingerings.

Listen and watch to James Galway playing [Flight of the Bumblebee](#). James Galway plays a gold flute.

Meet the Music – Bird's theme

Tempo
(speed)
Lively
and fast

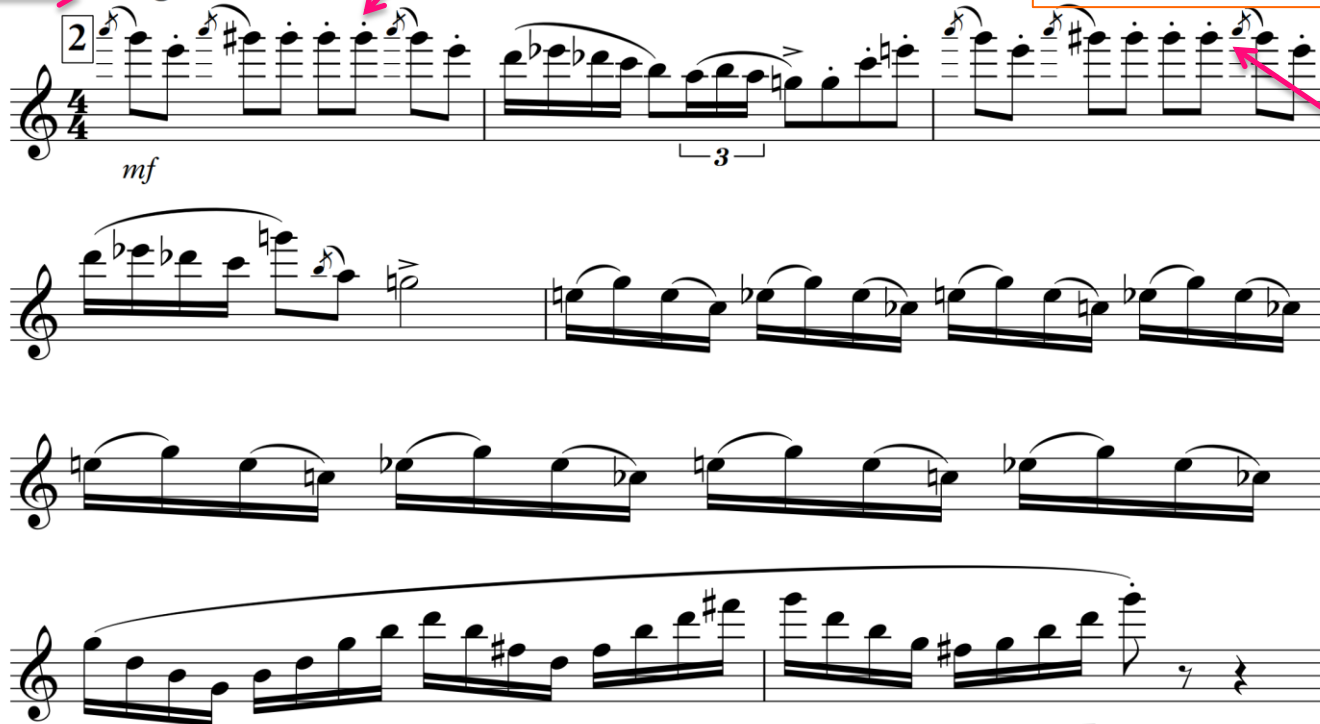
Allegro ♩ = 176

Ledger lines – notes written higher than the staff.

Click on the flute
then press play
to hear the theme



Grace note
is a music
ornament.



The story of Peter and the Wolf - continued

Just then a duck came waddling round. She was glad that Peter had not closed the gate and decided to take a nice swim in the deep pond in the meadow.

Seeing the duck, the little bird flew down upon on the grass, settled next to her and shrugged his shoulders. "What kind of bird are you if you can't fly?" said he. To this the duck replied "What kind of bird are you if you can't swim?" and dived into the pond.

Meet the Characters – The duck is portrayed by the oboe



Meet the Instrument – Oboe

The oboe is a member of the woodwind family.

The oboe is made of wood, has a conical bore and a flared bell. Holes which are covered by metal keys are pressed with the fingers to lengthen or shorten the instrument to change the pitch.

The mouthpiece is a double reed and sound is made by blowing into the reed so that both pieces of reed are vibrating. The reed is made of cane.



Oboe reed

The orchestra tunes to the oboe. At the beginning of a concert you will hear the oboe set the note and all the other instruments must match the pitch perfectly.

Listen and watch [Mozart's Oboe Concerto](#).



Meet the Music – Duck’s theme

A grace note is a music ornament. Grace notes do not add to the rhythmic count of the bar and can be interpreted in various ways.
Find all the grace notes in this excerpt.

Click on the oboe reed
then press play
to hear the theme



6

mf espress.

dim.

p

The story of Peter and the Wolf - continued

They argued and argued, the duck swimming in the pond and the little bird hopping along the shore.

Suddenly, something caught Peter's attention. He noticed a cat crawling through the grass.

The cat thought; "That little bird is busy arguing, I'll just grab him. Stealthily, the cat crept towards him on her velvet paws. "Look out!" shouted Peter and the bird immediately flew up into the tree, while the duck quacked angrily at the cat, from the middle of the pond.

The cat walked around the tree and thought,
"Is it worth climbing up so high?
By the time I get there the bird will have flown away."

Meet the Characters – The cat is portrayed by the clarinet



Meet the Instrument - Clarinet

The clarinet is a member of the woodwind family. The instrument is made of wood, although many students play clarinets made of a very hard plastic.

The clarinet has a cylindrical bore, meaning that the hole through the centre of the instrument is the same size at the top as at the bottom. A flared bell is at the end of the instrument to spread the sound.

Holes along the length of the clarinet are covered with keys. When keys are closed, the length of the instrument changes and this changes the pitch.



The **clarinet mouthpiece** is made of a single reed, made of cane. The reed is attached to the mouthpiece by a metal ligature. Air is blown between the reed and the wooden mouthpiece, the reed vibrates and the sound is made.

Listen and watch
Julian Bliss playing
[Mozart's Clarinet
Concerto in A Major](#)
at the BBC Proms



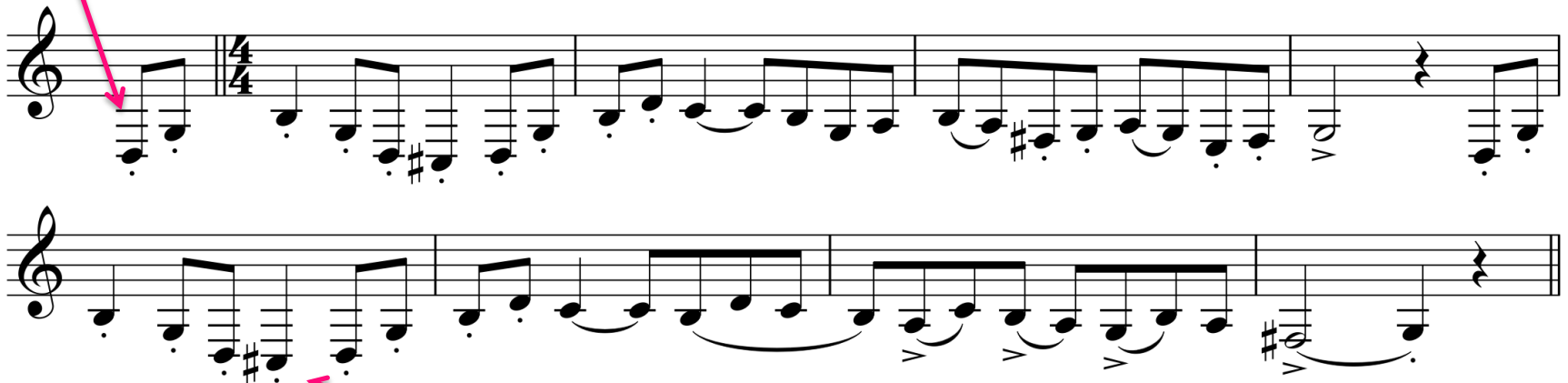
Meet the Music – Cat’s theme

Click on the clarinet
then press play
to hear the theme



Ledger lines – notes written
lower than the staff.

Moderato



Staccato – play short and detached

The story of Peter and the Wolf - continued

Just then grandfather came out. He was upset because Peter had gone in the meadow. "It's a dangerous place. If a wolf should come out of the forest, then what would you do?"

But Peter paid no attention to his grandfather's words. Boys like him are not afraid of wolves. But grandfather took Peter by the hand, led him home and locked the gate.

Meet the Characters – Grandfather is portrayed by the bassoon



Meet the Instrument - Bassoon

The bassoon is the lowest and largest member of the woodwind family and is a double reed instrument like the oboe and cor anglais.

The bassoon is usually made of wood and has a metal crook (tube) coming from the instrument. The mouthpiece is placed on the end of the crook.

The sound made by a bassoon is low and dark but it can also play high notes. The player covers the holes using the keys to make the different sounds.



The **bassoon mouthpiece** is a larger version of the oboe's double reed. Two pieces of cane are held together and when air is blown through the reed vibrates.

Listen and watch
[Mozart's Bassoon Concerto](#)



Meet the Music – Grandfather’s theme

Click on the bassoon reed
then press play
to hear the theme



Tempo (speed) - a little quicker than walking pace

Bass Clef

Poco piu andante

15

Style direction - heavy and ponderous.

Accent – make the note stronger.

Style direction - energetically

The story of Peter and the Wolf - continued

No sooner had Peter gone, than a big grey wolf came out of the forest.

In a twinkling the cat climbed up the tree. The duck quacked, and in her excitement jumped out of the pond. But no matter how hard the duck tried to run, she couldn't escape the wolf.

He was getting nearer, nearer, catching up with her. Then he got her, and with one gulp, swallowed her.



Meet the Characters – The wolf is portrayed by the french horns

Meet the Instrument – French Horn

The French Horn is a member of the brass family. The metal tube starts small at the mouthpiece and gets wider and wider through to the bell.

To make a sound players vibrate their lips to make a buzzing sound. By tightening the lips and using more air the sound changes. Many notes can be made by using the lips alone. Other notes are made by pressing valves to open more lengths of tubing on the instrument.

There are approximately four meters of tubing in a french horn.



Brass instrument mouthpieces have a rim where the player places their lips. The mouthpiece has a cup shape interior and is placed into the small end of the instrument's tubing.



Listen and watch [Mozart's Horn Concerto No. 4 Rondo](#)

Meet the Music – Wolf’s Theme

The theme is played by three French horns each playing different notes to make a chord

Click on the French Horn then press play



Chord – notes played at the same time.

Bass clef notes are lower than treble clef notes

Andante molto ♩ = 66

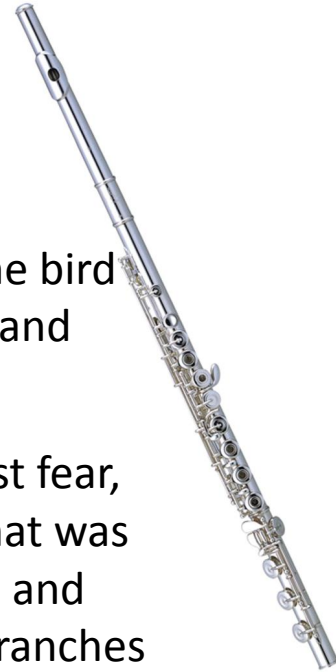


The musical score shows three French horns (Horn 1, Horn 2, Horn 3) and three string parts. The horns are in bass clef and play a chord of three notes simultaneously. The strings are in treble and bass clefs and play a rhythmic accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Andante molto' with a quarter note equal to 66 beats per minute. Dynamics include mezzo-piano (mp), mezzo-forte (mf), and forte (f), along with a crescendo (cresc.) marking.

The story of Peter and the Wolf - continued

And now, this is how things stood: the cat was sitting on one branch, the bird on another . . . not too close to the cat. And the wolf walked around and around the tree, looking at them with greedy eyes.

In the meantime, Peter, without the slightest fear, stood behind the closed gate watching all that was going on. He ran home, got a strong rope, and climbed up the high stone wall. One of the branches of the tree, around which the wolf was walking, stretched out over the wall.



The story of Peter and the Wolf - continued

Grabbing hold of the branch, Peter lightly climbed over on to the tree. Peter said to the bird: "Fly down and circle over the wolf's head. Only take care that he doesn't catch you". The bird almost touched the wolf's head with his wings while the wolf snapped angrily at him, from this side and that.

How the bird worried the wolf! How he wanted to catch him! But the bird was clever, and the wolf simply couldn't do anything about it. Meanwhile, Peter made a lasso and carefully letting it down, caught the wolf by the tail and pulled with all his might.

Feeling himself caught, the wolf began to jump wildly trying to get loose. But Peter tied the other end of rope to the tree, and the wolf's jumping only made the rope around his tail tighter.

The story of Peter and the Wolf - continued

Just then, the hunters came out of the woods, following the wolf's trail and shooting as they went.

But Peter, sitting in the tree, said: "Don't shoot! Birdie and I have already caught the wolf. Now help us take him to the zoo."

Meet the Characters – The hunters are portrayed by the timpani

Meet the Instruments - Timpani

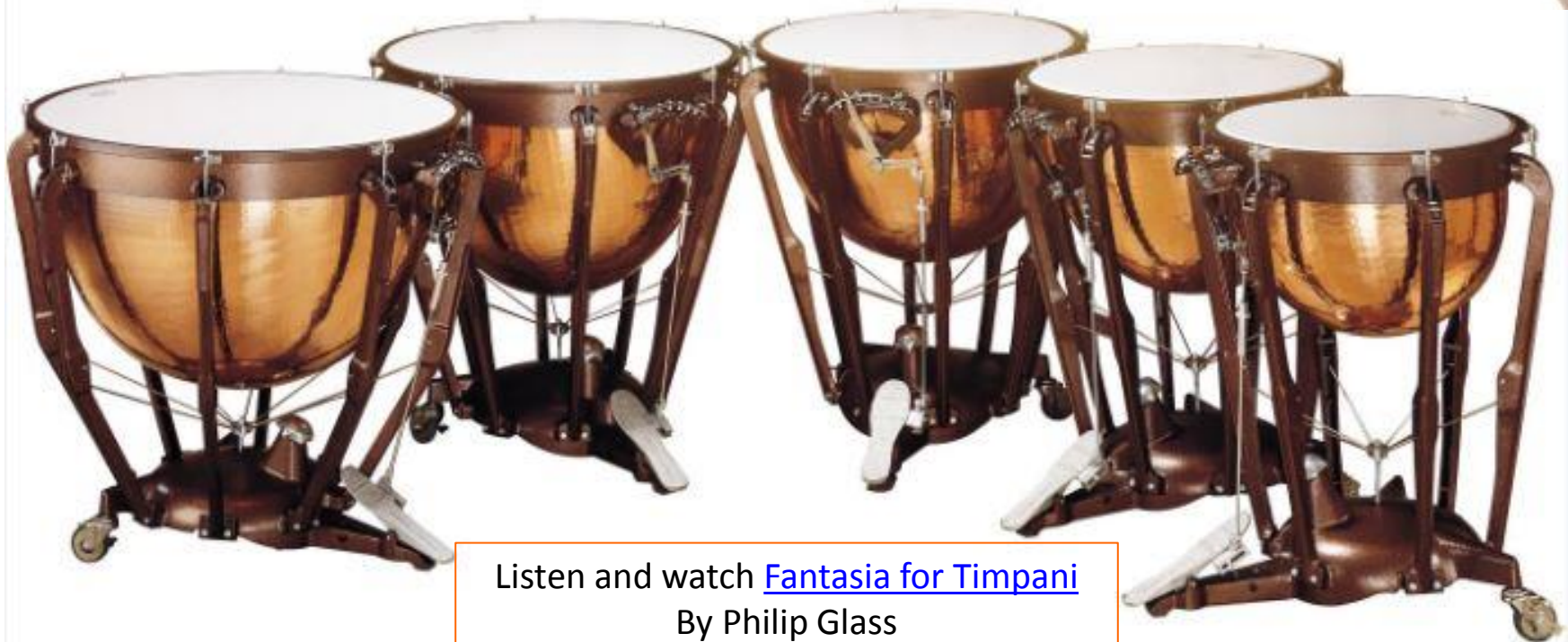
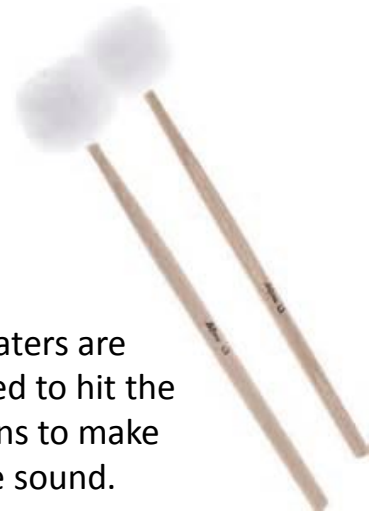
Timpani are percussion instruments. A skin is stretched tightly over large copper bowls of different sizes.

Timpani are usually played in sets of 3, 4 or 5 depending on the music.

Pedals at the base of the instruments can be pressed to tighten or loosen the skin and this changes the pitch of the notes.

The timpani is a tuned instrument meaning that the drums can play pitched notes.

Beaters are used to hit the skins to make the sound.



Listen and watch [Fantasia for Timpani](#)
By Philip Glass

Meet the Music - Hunters Theme



Click on the Timpani beaters then press play to hear the theme



Bass Clef

Tremolo – the beaters play rapidly for the length of the note.



Crescendo from piano (soft) to fortissimo (very loud)

Accent – make the note stronger.

The story of Peter and the Wolf – The ending

And now, imagine the triumphant procession: Peter at the head; after him the hunters leading the wolf; and winding up the procession, grandfather and the cat.

Grandfather shook his head discontentedly: "Well, and if Peter hadn't caught the wolf? What then?"

Above them flew Birdie chirping merrily. "My, what brave fellows we are, Peter and I! Look what we have caught!"

And if one would listen very carefully, he could hear the duck quacking inside the wolf; because the wolf in his hurry, had swallowed her alive.

The Composer - Serge Prokofiev

Serge Prokofiev was a Russian composer born in 1891 and died in 1953. He was also known as a pianist and as a conductor.

His first piano teacher was his mother. Later he attended the St. Petersburg Conservatorium. As a pianist Prokofiev travelled the world many times visiting London, Paris and United State of America.

In 1936 he returned to live permanently in Russia and it was there that he composed *Peter and the Wolf* for the Central Children's Theatre in Moscow. Prokofiev wrote both the music and the story. It was a success and has been performed around the world since to introduce children to the orchestra.



Listen to [Dance of the Knights](#) from Romeo and Juliet by Serge Prokofiev

Listen and watch [Peter and the Wolf](#)

[Sound files](#) of all the characters

Choose an instrument to suit your favourite animal

There is no correct answer. Think of the characteristics of an animal and the sounds of the instrument.

Which instrument would you choose to represent your chosen animal?

Consider that instrument can be played in different ranges , high and low (eg. piano) , different techniques (eg. violins played with a bow or plucked) or different dynamics (very soft or very loud) . An instrument could suit a different animal if it was played in a different style.

Elephant

Harp

Baby Chicken

Trumpet

Lion

Flute

Ants

Double Bass

Australian Curriculum – Music

| Elements of Music | Foundation to Year 2 | Years 3 and 4 | Years 5 and 6 | Years 7 and 8 | Years 9 and 10 |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| Rhythm | Beat and rhythm Fast/slow Long/short | Tempo changes ostinato | Compound metre | Time signature Rhythmic devices - anacrusis, syncopation, ties and pause | Regular and irregular time subdivision Triplet, duplet Motif, Augmentation/ diminution |
| Pitch | High/low Pitch direction Pitch matching Unison | Pentatonic patterns Melodic shape Intervals Treble clef and staff | Major scales Pitch sequences, arpeggio, riff, Bass clef | Minor scales Key and key signatures Major/minor chords Ledger lines | Tonal centres, Modulation Consonance/dissonance Chromaticism |
| Dynamics & Expression | Forte, piano | Dynamic gradations <i>pp to ff</i> Legato & staccato | Staccato , legato accent | Dynamic gradations Articulations relevant to style | Rubato, vibrato, ornamentation |
| Form and Structure | Introduction Same/different, echo patterns, repetition Verse, chorus, round | Question & answer Repeat signs Binary (AB) form Ternary (ABA) form | Theme, motif Phrase Rondo (ABACA) form ostinato | Repetition and contrast Theme and Variation Verse chorus, bridge | Motivic development Sonata form Interlude, Improvisation |
| Timbre | How sound is produced Every voice and instrument has its own sound | Recognise orchestral instruments by sound In isolations and in combination | Acoustic and electronic sounds Voice and instrument types | Recognise instrumental groups | Identify instruments by name and sound production. |
| Texture | Melody Accompaniment Drone | Patterns occurring simultaneously | Contrast within layers of sound | Layers of sound and their role. Unison, homo/ polyphonic | Horizontal/vertical layers countermelody |
| Creating | Creating sounds using voice and instruments | | | | |
| Performing | Playing instruments in groups. | Rhythms | Playing and reading melodic and rhythmic excerpts | | Sing and play in two or more parts |
| Responding | Moving to beat and rhythms | Respond to the stories. | Historical context | | Awareness of ensemble |

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Prepared by Pam Lowry, Education Liaison Officer
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*Principal
Partner*

