

Musician of the Month by Manic Street Teachers

Coverage and Rationale

Our Resources

Each 'Musician of the Month' pack that we create contains an assembly, a biographical knowledge organiser and multiple-choice quiz. We also provide a range of other activities such as listening activities, geography, music videos and lessons which explore their musical or cultural importance. Resources can be used as part of whole school 'Musician of the Month' resource or allocated to specific year groups. We would recommend using the idea of a 'Musician of the Month' for the whole school and continually roll the 6-year program, as this could then be used in school assemblies as well as creating consistency and focus through school and, at the same time, allowing for staff discussions, training and support.

Termly Music Assembly Videos

We have also started providing a 30-minute music assembly video once a term. This can be watched by children at school or remotely or may be used as CPD for staff. Lessons include the following: breathing exercises, body percussion, tongue twisters, notation, singing warm-ups, information about the musician, listen/respond activities and singing practice. Each session will also involve some of the indicative musical features (elements) that give language to concepts such as pulse and rhythm, pitch and melody, structure and form etc.

Musician Choices

Careful consideration has been given to the list of 66 musicians/traditions. We have drawn from a range of Western Classical composers and film composers, popular music and musical traditions from around the world. Within each year, there are 3 classical composers, 3 musical traditions and 5 popular musicians.

Across the 6-year cycle, we have ensured that there is a completely even gender split: there are 31 male musicians, 31 female musician and 4 mixed groups. We have also chosen many artists based on the Equality Act 2010, ensuring that a range of musicians with protected characteristics are studied. This can all be seen in the information below.

Musician of the Month List

Western Classical Tradition and Film

Musician (Country of Origin)	Period	Year Group
Hildegard of Bingen (Germany)	Early	
Barbara Strozzi (Italy)	Baroque	
George Frideric Handel (Germany)	Baroque	
Antonio Vivaldi (Italy)	Baroque	
Ludwig Van Beethoven (Germany)	Classical	
Amadeus Wolfgang Mozart (Austria)	Classical	
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (Russia)	Romantic	
Clara Schumann (Germany)	Romantic	
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (U.K.)	20 th Century	
Florence Price (U.S.A.)	20 th Century	
Ethel Smyth (U.K.)	20 th Century	
Gustav Holst (U.K.)	20 th Century	
Grażyna Bacewicz (Poland)	20 th Century	
Hans Zimmer (Germany)	21 st Century	
A.R. Rahman (India)	21 st Century	
Anna Clyne (U.K.)	21 st Century	
Jacqueline du Pré (U.K.)	21 st Century	
Anna Meredith (U.K.)	21 st Century	
Delia Derbyshire (U.K.)	21 st Century	

Musical Traditions

Musician (Country of Origin)	Tradition	Year Group
Gurinder Kaur Kainth (India)	Bhangra	
The Chieftains (Ireland)	Celtic	
Lord Kitchener (Trinidad)	Calypso	
Ladysmith Black Mambazo (South Africa)	Choral	
Babatunde Olatunji (Nigeria)	Drumming	
Amalia Rodrigues (Portugal)	Fado	
Gong Kebyar (Indonesia)	Gamelan	
Guan Pinghu (China)	Guqin	
Kishori Amonkar (India)	Indian Classical	
Te Waka Huia (New Zealand)	Māori Kapa Haka	
Reem Kelani (U.K.)	Palestinian Folk	
Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan (Pakistan)	Qawwali	
Cartola (Brazil)	Samba	
Fisherman's Friends (U.K.)	Sea Shanties	
Buena Vista Social Club (Cuba)	Son Cubano	
Astor Piazzolla (Argentina)	Tango	
Alan Dawa Dolma (China)	Tibetan Folk	
Kodo (Japan)	Taiko Drumming	

Popular Music

Musician (Country of Origin)	Style	Year Group
Destiny's Child (U.S.A.)	90s RnB	
Damon Albarn (U.K.)	90s Indie	
Elton John (U.K.)	80s Pop/Rock	
Freddie Mercury (U.K.)	80s Pop/Rock	
Annie Lennox (U.K.)	80s Pop/Rock	
David Bowie (U.K.)	60s Pop/Rock	
The Beatles (U.K.)	60s Pop	
Édith Piaf (France)	50s Pop	
Bjork (Iceland)	Art Pop	
Kate Bush (U.K.)	Art Pop	
Bessie Smith (U.S.A.)	Blues	
Sister Rosetta Tharpe (U.S.A.)	Blues/Rock n Roll	
ABBA (Sweden)	Disco	
Kraftwerk (Germany)	Electronic	
Tracy Chapman (U.S.A.)	Folk	
Joni Mitchell (U.S.A.)	Folk	
Stevie Wonder (U.S.A.)	Funk	
Aretha Franklin (U.S.A.)	Gospel	
Nina Simone (U.S.A.)	Jazz	
Ella Fitzgerald (U.S.A.)	Jazz	
Shirley Bassey (U.K.)	Pop	
Angélique Kidjo (Benin)	Pop	
Idina Menzel (U.S.A.)	Pop/Musicals	
Kylie Minogue (Australia)	Pop	
Sigur Ros (Iceland)	Post Rock	
Bob Marley (Jamaica)	Reggae	
Elvis Presley (U.S.A.)	Rock n Roll	
Jimi Hendrix (U.S.A.)	Rock n Roll	
The Supremes (U.S.A.)	Soul	

Musician of the Month - Cycle A, B, C, D, E and F

Each cycle represents a year's worth of musicians, except August due to extended school holidays. Schools can start at any cycle point but are recommended to start at Cycle A.

Month	Cycle A	Cycle B	Cycle C	Cycle D
September	David Bowie	Bob Marley	Kate Bush	ABBA
October	Nina Simone	Tracy Chapman	Stevie Wonder	Jimi Hendrix
November	Ethel Smyth	Bjork	Hildegard of Bingen	George Frideric Handel
December	Elton John	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky	Ladysmith Black Mambazo	Astor Piazzolla
January	Florence Price	Ludwig Van Beethoven	Hans Zimmer	Gustav Holst
February	Reem Kelani	Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan	The Supremes	Destiny's Child
March	Amadeus Wolfgang Mozart	Freddie Mercury	Annie Lennox	Cartola
April	Joni Mitchell	Kraftwerk	Bessie Smith	The Beatles
May	Fisherman's Friends	Gamelan gong kebyar	Kishori Amonkar	Babatunde Olatunji
June	Aretha Franklin	Clara Schumann	Buena Vista Social Club	Grażyna Bacewicz
July	Gurinder Kaur Kainth	Alan Dawa Dolma	Barbara Strozzi	Angélique Kidjo

Month	Cycle E	Cycle F
September	Lord Kitchener	Anna Clyne
October	Sister Rosetta Tharpe	Ella Fitzgerald
November	Jacqueline du Pré	Te Waka Huia
December	Anna Meredith	Sigur Ros
January	Damon Albarn	Elvis Presley
February	Antonio Vivaldi	Delia Derbyshire
March	The Chieftains	Idina Menzel
April	Samuel Coleridge-Taylor	A.R. Rahman
May	Édith Piaf	Amalia Rodrigues
June	Kodo	Shirley Bassey
July	Kylie Minogue	Guan Pinghu

Male musicians = 31

Female musicians = 31

Mixed groups = 4

Male composers = 9

Female composers = 9

Protected Characteristics from the Equality Act 2010

Age	Disability	Race	Religion or Belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
<i>Performed at older age</i>	Beethoven (Deafness) Stevie Wonder (Blindness) Jonsi (Sigur Ros) (Sight Loss) Joni Mitchell (left hand due to polio) Mozart (suspected autism) The Beatles (John Lennon - suspected dyslexia) Jacqueline du Pré (multiple sclerosis)	Bob Marley Nina Simone Florence Price Reem Kelani Aretha Franklin Lord Kitchener Tracy Chapman Nusrat Khan Freddie Mercury Gamelan gong kebyar The Supremes Ladysmith Black Mambazo Stevie Wonder A.R. Rahman Bessie Smith Kishori Amonkar Buena Vista Social Club Jimi Hendrix Cartola Babatunde Olatunje Destiny's Child Sister Rosetta Tharpe Kodo Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Ella Fitzgerald Te Waka Huia Guan Pinghu Gurinder Kaur Kainth Alan Dawa Dolma Shirley Bassey Angélique Kidjo	Bob Marley (Rastafarianism) Reem Kelani (Islam) Nusrat Khan (Islam) Freddie Mercury (Zoroastrian) Gamelan gong kebyar (Hinduism) Hildegard of Bingen (Christianity) A.R. Rahman (Islam) Kishori Amonkar (Hinduism) David Bowie (Buddhism) Gurinder Kaur Kainth (Sikhism) Alan Dawa Dolma (Buddhism) Kodo (Buddhism) Idina Menzel (Judaism) Jacqueline du Pré (Judaism) Sister Rosetta Tharpe (Christianity) Aretha Franklin (Christianity) Elton John (Atheism) Amadeus Wolfgang Mozart (Christianity) Stevie Wonder (Christianity) Ladysmith Black Mambazo (Christianity) Hans Zimmer (Judaism) George Frideric Handel (Christianity) Destiny's Child (Christianity) Babatunde Olatunji (Christianity)	Nina Simone Ethel Smyth Florence Price Reem Kelani Joni Mitchell Aretha Franklin Bjork Clara Schumann Kate Bush The Supremes Hildegard of Bingen Bessie Smith Kishori Amonkar Destiny's Child Anna Clyne Alan Dawa Dolma Barbara Strozzi Grażyna Bacewicz Sister Rosetta Tharpe Jacqueline du Pré Anna Meredith Kylie Minogue Edith Piaf Annie Lennox Ella Fitzgerald Delia Derbyshire Idina Menzel Amalia Rodrigues Shirley Bassey Angélique Kidjo +31 male musicians	Nina Simone Ethel Smyth Elton John Tracy Chapman Freddie Mercury Bessie Smith Tchaikovsky
<i>Performed at younger age</i>	Pregnancy/Maternity Destiny's Child (Beyonce has performed pregnant several times)				
	Marriage / Civil Partnerships Elton John				

'Gender Reassignment' not currently covered