Music technology in the primary classroom

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Wednesday 30 June 2021
MEHEM Uprising
Aims of this session

- The value and purpose of using music technologies in primary schools.
- Pedagogical and practical considerations when using music technology to support musical learning.
- Develop confidence in making music using mobile technology.
- Use the comments as a sharing/reviewing tool to support colleagues.
My experience - Using the iPad as an instrument in musical performances
What is the purpose/value of using technology to teach music?
Music

Purpose of study
Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.

Aims
The national curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians

- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence

- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.
Reflective Questions:
- Can we use technology to enhance our vocal work?
- Can technology be used as an instrument?
- Can we access high quality music samples using technology?
- Can we use technology to explore the dimensions of music and create our own music?

Key stage 1
Pupils should be taught to:
- use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes
- play tuned and untuned instruments musically
- listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music
- experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

Key stage 2
Pupils should be taught to sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control. They should develop an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds from aural memory.

Pupils should be taught to:
- play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music
- listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- use and understand staff and other musical notations
- appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians
- develop an understanding of the history of music.

Reflective Questions:
- Can we use technology to play independently, and with others?
- Can we develop improvisation skills using technology?
- Can we develop aural skills and learn about notation?
- Can we interact with a range of music genre using tech?
TPACK – Theory about different types of knowledge needed to effectively use technology in the music classroom

- Technological knowledge
- Content knowledge
- Pedagogical knowledge
Reflection: How is YOUR music technology journey going so far?
4 Stages of technology implementation

- Equipment
- CPD
- Classroom
- Networking
Computer or tablet? What purpose does the technology suit?

BandLab

SoundTrap
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Music Technology</th>
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<td><strong>PC or Macs?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>iPad or Android?</strong></td>
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<td>Bandlab</td>
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<td>Cakewalk (by BandLab) – free</td>
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<td>GarageBand</td>
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Using Tablets to perform live music

- RAH Performance (Video not included in ppt.)
- Accessibility
- Progression in musical learning
- Developing innovative ways of playing music with others

Remember musical ability is not necessarily linked to academic ability. For example, an A* student in maths may play less musically than an F grade student.
Ratio of devices

Practical Issues:
- Audio – headphones, PA
- Charging
- Purchasing apps
- Classroom rules
- Sharing with other classes
- Storing work - cloud based solutions
- Sharing work – audience? Performances, school music blog
### Equipment
- Tablets
- Headphones
- PA / speaker & lead/s
- Cases
- Chargers
- Trolley/bags to carry round school
- App Store cards – To purchase apps/music from the app store
- Tablet stands

### CPD
- **YOUTUBE** – Watch videos of:
  - computer software
  - Individual apps
  - iPad band performances
- Networking – Link with other teachers who are enjoying working with technology
  - Expertise - Local secondary school music teachers
- MEH training courses, specific tailored support
- Apple Store – for devices and Apple only apps
- External courses
- Be open to learning from the children – they are often very tech savvy.
Stimulus – What to teach? How to teach it?

- ISM PRIMARY CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK
- Music Express
- Charanga
- Musical Futures
- Oak National Academy
- BBC 10 Pieces/Bitesize
- Primaryresources.co.uk
- SingUp
- TES Teaching Resources

NATIONAL CURRICULUM

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

MODEL MUSIC CURRICULUM
Using apps to develop music skills
Singing / vocal work
Vocal warm-ups

- Swiftscales

Songwriting

- Rhymers Block
- Songwriters Pro
- Improvox

Karaoke apps

- Smule
- Yokee
- Starmaker

Creative vocal apps

- Loopy
Playing music
Percussion/Drumbeats

Hand Drums
REAL PERCUSSION: Drum pads
Rhythm Pad
ShakerBox
Real Drum (A)
Drum pad machine (A)

Layering Samples

Launchpad

Chords

Soundprism
GarageBand

Synths

Geosynth
Airvox

Electro

Nodebeat

Soundprism

Bebot
Task:
Playing a bass riff

E E G E D C B
Find bass guitar

Next step: Play in pairs – one keeping beat on drums
Queen, ‘Another One Bites the Dust’

EEE EEEGEA
MMC – Year 2 Listening Guidance pieces:

• Bolero – Ravel (Thumbjam – C major, in 3)

• Mars from *The Planets* – Holst (Scale - Blues phrygian, in G)
  • G, D, Db, Ab

• Hound Dog - Elvis Presley (GarageBand – Smart Guitar)
### Chords - Harmony

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<td>Never caught a rabbit and you</td>
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Hound Dog - Elvis Presley (GarageBand – Smart Guitar)
Composing Music
Composing Chord Sequences – Ternary form - ABA

Section A

1    2    3    4
   
Section B

1    2    3    4
   
Extension:
• Add drumbeat
• Add bassline
• Add other instruments
• Writes lyrics
Composing – using samples

- Rayman Legends Beatbox
- Toc and Roll
- Toca Band
- Launchpad
Improvising music
Musical sound effects

- Suspended in mid air
- Climbing and speeding up
- CRASH!
- Walking/running
- Bouncing to a stop
- Floating down
- Hard landing
- Sawing
- Dizzy
- Shock!
- Hammering
- Going up quickly
Create your own storyboard

- Climbing and speeding up
- Floating down
- Suspended in mid air
- CRASH!
- Hammering
- Bouncing to a stop
- Hard landing
- Dizzy
### Bloomsbury Primary School timetable

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Atmospheric sounds – Alchemy (GarageBand)

Atmospheric sounds apps:
- Scape
- Bloom
- GarageBand – Alchemy
- Grain Science
- Launchpad soundpacks
KEYBOARD

Play an onscreen keyboard using piano, organ, synth and other sounds.

[Images of piano interface with controls and options]
Spinning stars ostinato

D F G A C
Music Express free trial
link: connect.collins.co.uk

Music Express and the MMC is available here: https://collins.co.uk/pages/primary-primary-music-music-express-model-music-curriculum
Activity idea: Developing improvisation skills – Indian Raga Fusion
Listening

- Carnival of the animals
- Benjamin Britten’s Guide
My First Classical Music App – Exploring instruments and timbres/sounds
Learning about composers and classical music
Resources linked to music apps

- Katie Wardrobe – Midnight Music Technology
- iPad Music Teacher – Facebook
- Music Express free trial link: connect.collins.co.uk
Thank you for listening

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