



Music Curriculum Overview

KEY STAGE 3- Year 8 and 9

At BSN, we follow the Creative Classroom program of study produced by Juilliard. This program of study is taught over a two year cycle.

Music for Ancient Instruments

We peek into the rich world of the Pipa and focus on the far-reaching musical traditions of traditional Chinese Instruments and notation by studying “Ambush from Ten Sides,”. We explore the evolution of physical instruments and their function within societies and connections to other cultures and traditions.

Core work – *Ambush from Ten Sides*

The World of the Orchestra

Beethoven’s iconic Fifth Symphony opens the door to vast world of the orchestra across various traditions and time periods. Students will learn about the forms and structures used and the expansive sonic possibilities. The students analyse the motif used in the 1st movement and delve into the myriad of possibilities of developing a simple motif. Composition using music software allows students to compose their own piece of music based on a motif of their own writing or by developing one of Beethoven’s.

Core work - *Beethoven Symphony Number 5*

The Instrument as a Soloist

By exploring unaccompanied instrumental works, students can focus on the timbres, technical capabilities, and expressive possibilities of a range of individual instruments. The solo form offers unique opportunities to examine pared down approaches to melodic writing, harmony, and sonic scope when a composer must work within the confines of a solitary instrument. This year we are working with Erin Wight, our Juilliard Curriculum Specialist, students are composing their own composition with Erin providing feedback on them. Selected students will have their work performed and recorded by Erin.

Core works – *Bach Cello Suite in C*
Bartok Viola Concerto



The Song

Focusing on the song as its own medium enables listeners to hear the distinct timbre of each voice, learn the musical devices used to convey poetry, and understand each song's function within its respective culture. It also provides a platform for students to learn songs in multiple languages and compare and contrast common song forms.

Core work – *They Can't Take That Away from Me, Gershwin.*
Two Choral Songs, Op. 73, Elgar
Selected Lieder, Franz Schubert

Folk Origins

Folk traditions have long been sources of inspiration for composers across time periods, styles, and genres. The works in this category encourage students not only to study pieces inspired by folk music, but to delve into the music and cultural practices of the sources themselves.

Core works – *Chants du Burgam, Doudou N'diaye Rose*
Selections from 27 Two- Three-Part Choruses, Bartok
Succotash, Herbie Hancock
Siete canciones populares españolas, Manuel de Falla

Improvisatory Music

We focus on improvisational music across a variety of cultural traditions. Through listening and playing, students develop their ability to improvise as a mode of creative self-expression. This is a very practical area of study and students are encouraged to use instruments they can already play as well as new instruments.

Core works- *Blue Monk, Thelonius Monk*
Guajeo de Saxos, Israel "Cachao" Lopez
Anandamrutha, Muthuswami Dikshitar