



Music Curriculum Overview

KEY STAGE 3- Year 6 and 7

At BSN, we follow the Creative Classroom program of study produced by Juillard. 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.” Students use the ideas and themes represented in the core work to improvise their own performance and develop a graphic score to demonstrate notating in a less traditional manner.

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. We look at the structure of the 2nd movement and students use this to write their composition. Composing using music software allows students to compose their own piece of music based on one of Beethoven’s themes.

Core work - *Beethoven Symphony Number 5*

Music for Film

Since the time of the first “talkie” sound movies, the art of original film-scoring involves composing music to accompany specific images, moods, or actions. We study an iconic film score with and without their visual counterparts with a focus on themes, orchestral texture, and dramatic elements.

Core work - *Score to E.T. the Extra Terrestrial, John Williams*



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. Students will study a folk song from their own cultural background to relate to their own selves.

*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*

Music for Dramatic Productions

Dramatic productions, including opera and pieces for musical theatre, combine instrumental music with voices, acting, scenery, and dance. The collaboration of numerous disciplines allows students to consider the interplay between these expressive arts forms in achieving dramatic arc. This unit ties in with drama and students will study this topic just before starting their own Senior School Production.

*Core works- The Magic Flute, Mozart
Hansel and Gretel, Humperdinck
Into the Woods, Sondheim*