



Musician of the Month



Schools Programme
2024/2025



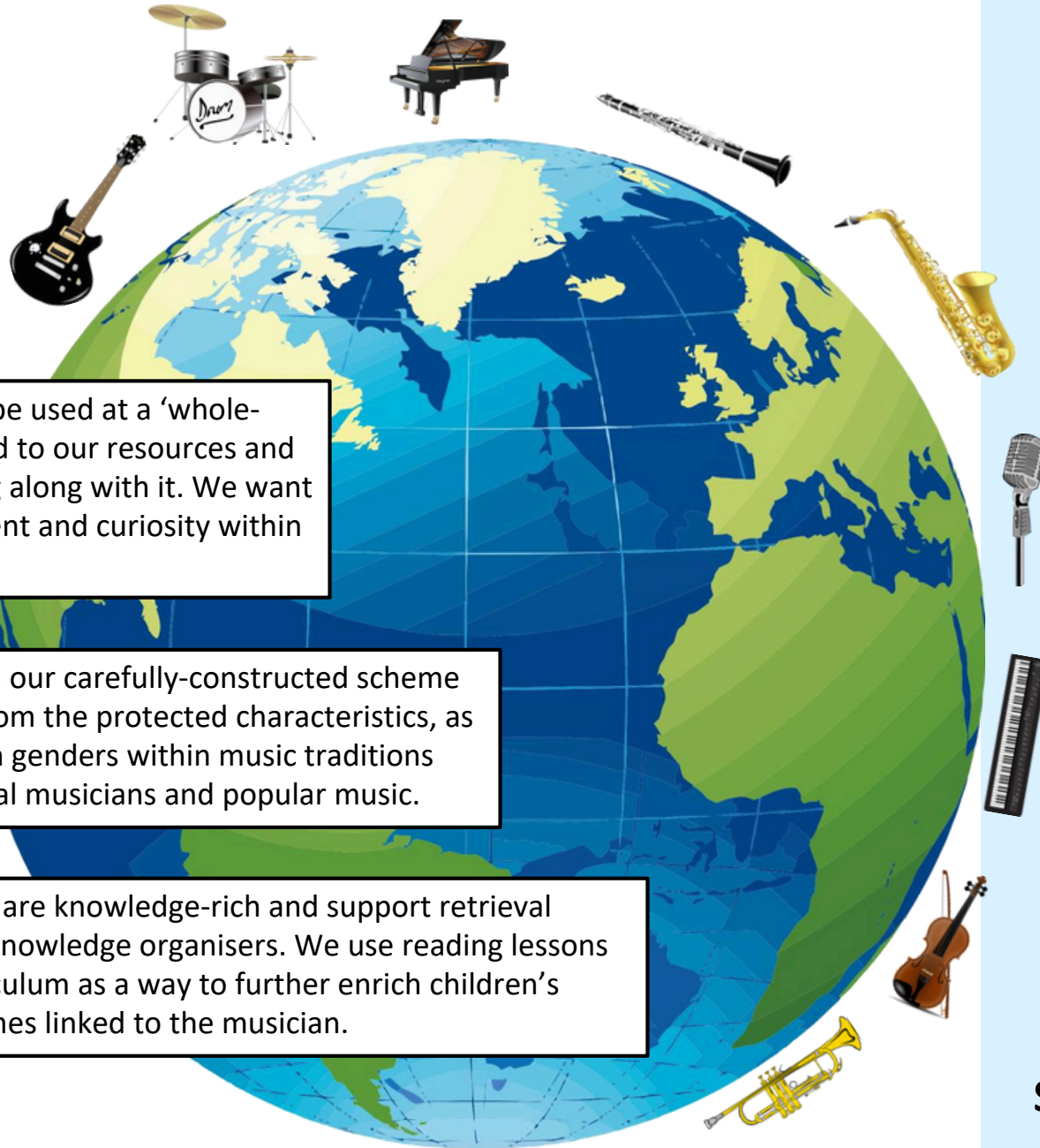


Core Values

Experience: We want the resource to be used at a 'whole-school' level so all children are exposed to our resources and all the positive benefits they may bring along with it. We want to create a culture of respect, enjoyment and curiosity within schools.

Diversity: Using the Equality Act, 2010, our carefully-constructed scheme ensures that there is representation from the protected characteristics, as well as equal representation from both genders within music traditions from across the globe, Western classical musicians and popular music.

Knowledge: The resources we provide are knowledge-rich and support retrieval through multiple-choice quizzing and knowledge organisers. We use reading lessons and activities linked to the wider curriculum as a way to further enrich children's experience and knowledge of key themes linked to the musician.



MISSION

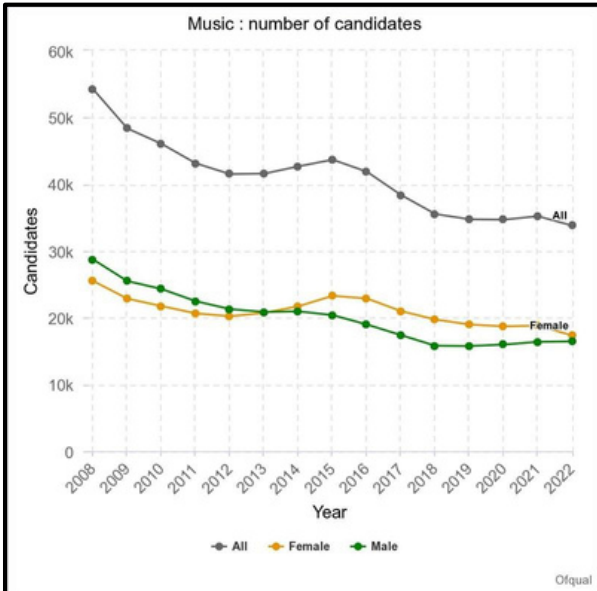
Our mission is to offer children a range of diverse experiences and knowledge over the course of their time in primary school, with direct links to the protected characteristics that span a vast range of musical traditions, western classical musicians and popular music.

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The Musician of the Month Story

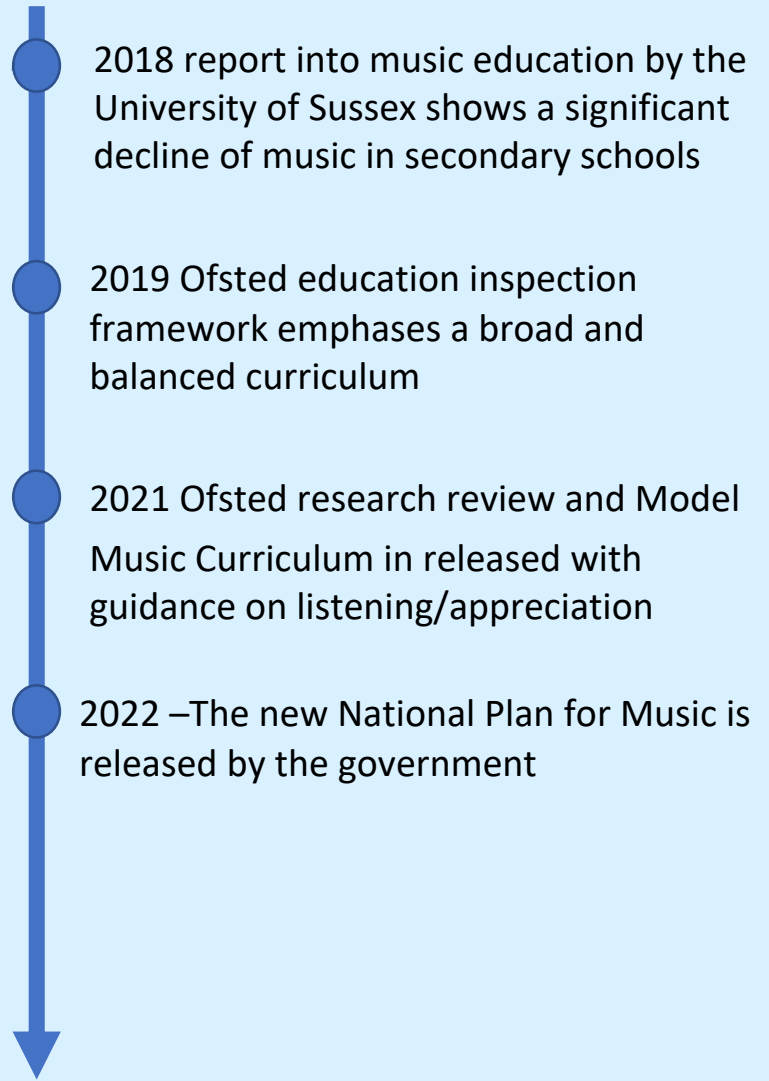


The number of entries for GCSE music fell to 30,115 in 2023. In 2008, this number was over 54,000.

Trainee primary teachers are offered shrinking amounts of musical training. And with reduced lesson time, this has been accompanied by lower levels of staffing to support a school's rich musical life. Therefore, it is more important than ever for schools to find ways that put high-quality music at the core of the curriculum. -Ofsted Music Review (12/07/21)

In an interview last year for Black Lives in Music, star cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, who went to a state school in Nottingham, warned opportunities for ethnically diverse young musicians are worsening because of state arts education cuts. *"The cuts that have been [made] to music at my primary school have been devastating –and as a result, there are few children who are able to have this music education."* *"You create this two-class thing where those able to pay for music lessons are able to become musicians and be enriched by these wonderful experiences. There's a massive divide in this country in opportunities. It highlights a really big problem in this country."* -Classic FM (10/08/21)

A-level music could disappear from state schools by 2033, new research suggests. New research, undertaken by Dr Adam Whittaker and Professor Martin Fautley at Birmingham City University, has found that the state music education system is suffering hugely as a result of cuts to funding over recent years. -Classical-Music.uk (09/08/21)





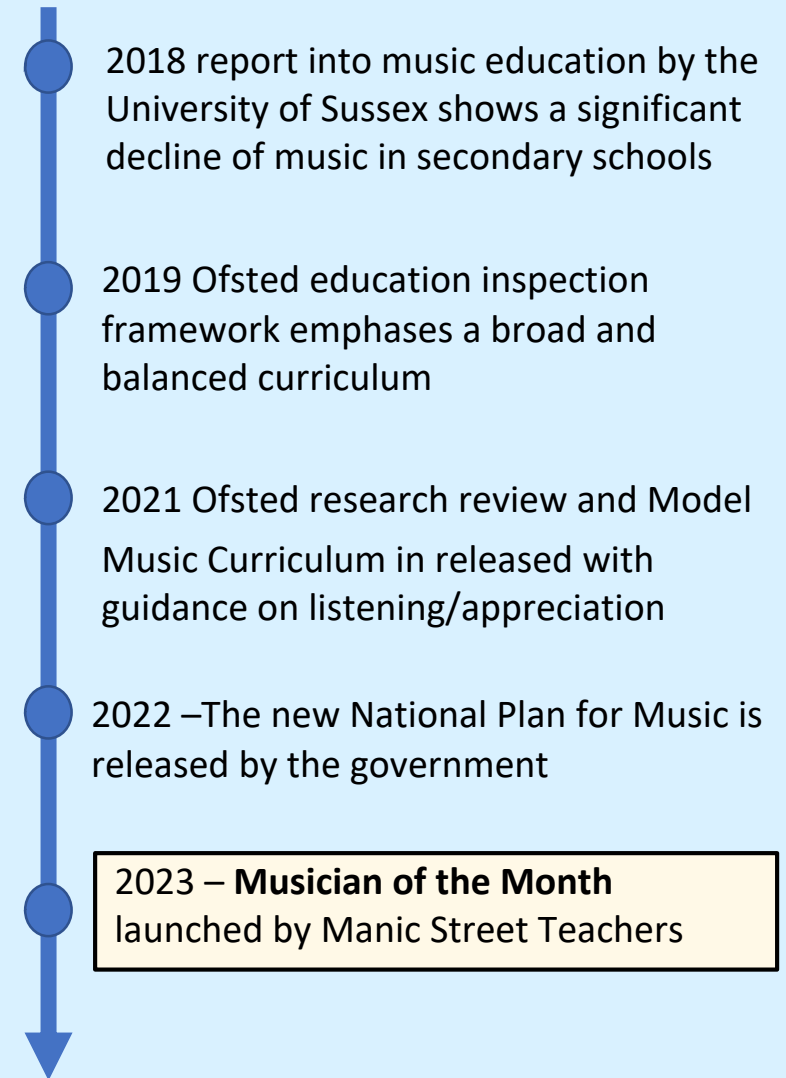
The Musician of the Month Story

In 2018, research showed that music was no longer taught across more than 50% of state-funded secondary schools, including some maintained schools, and that this position was getting progressively worse over time. Yet, In 2018, the music industry was still contributing £5.2 billion to the UK economy. In 2022, this had reduced to £4 billion.

It was around 2019 that Matthew Dix and Caroline Cawley began to invest time and efforts in their own schools, as well as creating banks of resources for Key Stage 2, to get more music into the hands of non-specialist teachers across the country and a greater understanding and appreciation of music within their own school communities. Within a few years, hundreds of schools had followed their lead by using the resources in their own schools. It was evident that appreciating and listening to music was valuable for children. However, by understanding the stories behind the musicians, branching out into the wider curriculum and exploring traditions in depth as a school community, it brought with it new conversations, new discussions and new levels of engagement, respect and knowledge.

With a new 'National Plan for Music Education' launched In June 2022, and seemingly more problems with music take-up than ever before, Matthew and Caroline have sought to pull together their learning and resources into something more accessible for both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 by launching Musician of the Month to help foster a generation of inquisitive, respectful and knowledgeable music listeners.

They have not only removed some of the burden placed on teachers to cover extra areas of the curriculum, but also provided a means in which a school can saturate classrooms, corridors and assembly halls with a range of composers, musicians and traditions specifically chosen to promote diversity, respect and knowledge.



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The Musician of the Month Programme

Musician of the Month is a six-year programme that provides resources for Primary schools on a monthly basis & allows schools to create a culture of musical appreciation. It covers music but also elements of English, geography, history and P.S.H.E.

It is a yearly subscription, which covers schools for all 40 weeks of the academic year. Throughout the year it covers 11 musicians from September to July and provides a range of resources, including weekly resources. Primary schools receive Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2 digital resources through online access. All materials can be delivered by email once a month should schools wish to.

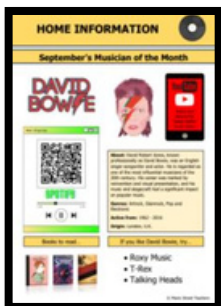
The idea is to free up all prep time for teachers. The lessons themselves can be delivered by teachers, teaching assistants or supply staff. Below is a selection of just some of our resources for each month.



Display Posters



Assemblies



Home Information Sheets



Weekly KS1 & KS2 Resources

How it Works

- 1.) Lead staff receive materials each month via email or download via the website.
- 2.) Staff introduce the musician through assemblies, home information sheets and display posters.
- 3.) Teachers use the KS1 or KS2 resources to deliver a lesson each week, including the use of music videos and book suggestions.
- 4.) Schools are encouraged to use the music in a variety of settings throughout the month and generate discussions about the musician with children.

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The Musician of the Month Programme

Musician of the Month List

Western Classical Tradition and Film

Musician (Country of Origin)	Period
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
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





The Musician of the Month Programme

Popular Music

Musician (Country of Origin)	Style
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	Edith 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





The Musician of the Month Programme

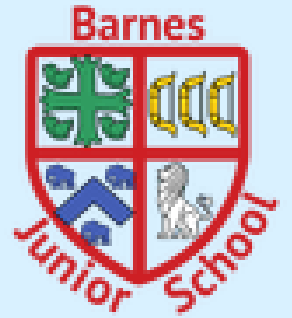
Protected Characteristics from the Equality Act 2010

Age	Disability	Race	Religion or Belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation	
<i>Performed at older age</i> Elton John Kraftwerk Kishori Amonkar Buena Vista Social Club Cartola Ella Fitzgerald Amalia Rodrigues The Chieftains Angélique Kidjo	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> Mozart Beethoven Gustav Holst	Pregnancy/Maternity				
		Destiny's Child (Beyonce has performed pregnant several times)				
		Marriage / Civil Partnerships Elton John				





Case Study 1: Barnes Junior School, Sunderland



Name: Natalie Ward

Job Role: Deputy Head Teacher

Implementation

“We’ve been using Musician of the Month for two years, consistently, though I have used it as a teacher, previously. I have used Musician of the Month every week since taking up my current role as Deputy Head Teacher. It has been used within our weekly values assemblies, every Monday morning. Each month, the new artist or genre is introduced to children and each week the suggested music is played on entry to assembly.”

“At the beginning of assembly, children discuss their thoughts about and responses to the music and learn a little more about the artist or musical style. This supplements our music curriculum well by revisiting key terminology and musical elements, little and often. I display the timeline and musician posters in our assembly hall, so that children can find out more and develop a sense of chronology, and we listen to a different musical piece, using the video links, each week.”

Impact

“The children at our school love to find out who the new musician will be, each month, and discuss their favourites as well as comparing styles. The diversity of choice means that there is something for everyone and it has complemented our focus on our school value of respect through discussions about musicians from Freddie Mercury, to Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and Clara Schumann. The quality of discussions have most definitely improved, over the two years that I have used the resources in assemblies.”

“I just want to say thank you for creating an excellent, time-saving resource, that gives our school a structure for developing quality talk about music at every opportunity. Musician of the Month has saved me time planning and sourcing resources to use in assemblies and the linked resources are excellent. I'm looking forward to seeing the new resources that I know are being developed and thinking about how we can use these in school to further improve our music offer.”

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Case Study 2: St Mary's RC Primary School, Middleton



Name: Emma Thomas

Job Role: Music Coordinator and Year 5 Teacher

Implementation

"We've been using Musician of the Month for at least two years now. Our whole school is aware of each musician through music played in communal areas such as the hall, corridors and outside classrooms. We have utilised the posters in all Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classes and carry out the useful comprehension activities each month as part of music lessons."

"The Knowledge organisers and music display posters are really effective and children are becoming used to using them independently. Easy to access multiple choice questions have also been useful too."

Impact

"There has been a significant increase in children's interest of unfamiliar music styles and musicians, along with an increase in the knowledge of how musicians can break stereotypes and bring down barriers. This has also linked to their understanding of social justice. Elements of SMSC such as Black History and other cultures have been complemented well by the Musician of the Month resources, as well as actual musical vocabulary increasing away from our used music scheme in school."

"We recently had a good Ofsted rating and music was seen to be exceptional by inspectors. The inspector's deep dive in music spent some time looking at how the Musician of the Month works. It was definitely approved!"

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Case Study 3: Edenbridge Primary School, Kent



Name: Helen Byard

Job Role: Music Specialist Teacher

Implementation

"I use many resource pages provided by Manic Street Teachers but as a primary music teacher I am really grateful for the extensive 'Musician of the Month' resources. It is full of diverse, multi-genre, cross-curricular, current and interesting artists."

"This has particularly been useful for whole school celebrations such as Black History Month. For example, the Stevie Wonder fact sheet, knowledge organiser and suggested listening clips were perfect for my Year 4 and Year 5 classes. The links and information about Martin Luther King were age appropriate and clearly organised and the poem was a good stimulus to lead into better understanding of the message behind the music. I often dip into this useful catalogue of music to enhance my music lessons."

Impact

"The children at Edenbridge Primary school benefit from weekly, one hour music lessons with a music specialist teacher from Reception to Year 6. Therefore, the music teacher has a very good understanding of the requirements of the Nation Curriculum, Model Music Curriculum and Ofsted standards. A resource such as 'Musician of the Month' really enhances the range of musician's children can access."

"Through this site, they are exposed to many different music styles and can analyse and understand the history and story behind the artists. This inspires creativity and pupils are influenced by other music sources, broadening their skills when composing and performing."

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The Curriculum

Musician of the Month was designed to cover the following areas of the music section of the National Curriculum:

Aims

- 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

Key Stage 1

- listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music

Key Stage 2

- 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

Musician of the Month uses the life and music of musicians, composers and musical traditions to explore other areas of the National Curriculum:

(Please note that Cycles E and F are pending. This will further increase the objectives in this list)

English

- Reading comprehension activities
- Reading fluency activities
- Writing prompts for creative writing and slow writing strategies
- Research opportunities

Geography

- Map work linked to specific countries
- Similarities and differences between places
- Cycle A-F geography display posters and interactive map

History

- Music history knowledge organisers and quizzes
- Biographical musician knowledge organisers
- Cycle A-F history timeline posters

Art and Design

- Sketching
- Fashion, pop group, guitar and robot design
- Self-portrait
- Islamic geometric patterns
- circuit board art

P.S.H.E.

- Gender stereotyping activities
- Disability awareness activities
- Respecting other cultures, traditions and beliefs

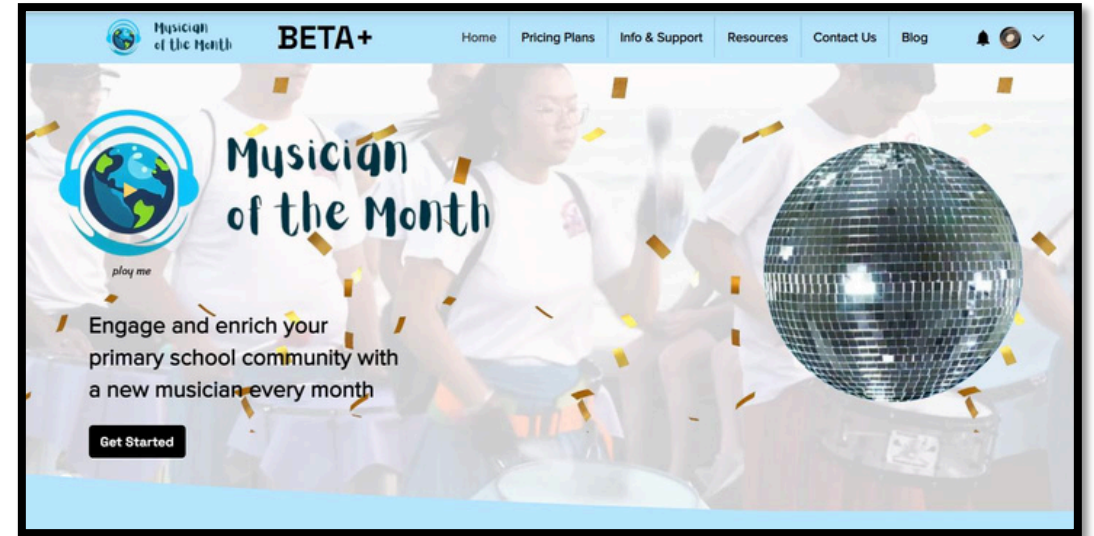


Signing up and pricing

We have done our best to make sure that Musician of the Month is as simple and easy to sign up to as possible. To get started, all you have to do is go to our website (musicianofthemonth.co.uk), click on 'Pricing Plans' and choose how to pay for your subscription (by card or through invoice).

It only takes a minute to fill in your details and create a school account. If you choose to pay on card, you can go online and download materials as soon as you have paid. Simply choose which cycle you would like to start in (most schools start in Cycle A) and click 'Resources'.

Here you will find every musician and every month clearly labelled and ready to use. Should you wish all resources to be emailed out to your school on a monthly basis, you can choose this option when you go to 'Pricing Plans'. If you have any questions, we are always available at info@manicstreetteachers.com.



School Subscription

£75

An annual subscription to Musician of the Month

Valid for one year

[Pay by card](#)

- Access to the online Musician of the Month cycles
- Access to all knowledge organisers and sets of quizzes
- Access to the interactive map and display maps
- Access to all timeline posters

School Subscription + Monthly Email

£85

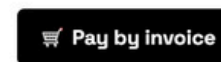
An annual subscription to Musician of the Month + Monthly email containing all resources

Valid for one year

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- Access to the online Musician of the Month cycles
- Access to all knowledge organisers and sets of quizzes
- Access to the interactive map and display maps
- Access to all timeline posters
- A monthly email containing all necessary resources

To pay by invoice, click the button below to fill in the details necessary for processing.

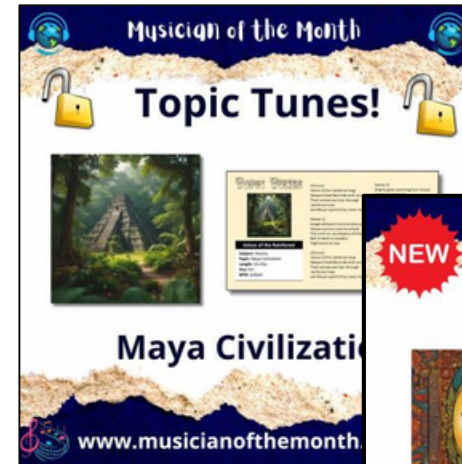




New to 2024-25

Based on our 2023/24 staff questionnaire, we're adding the following next year:

- Topic Tunes (History/Geography and Science)
- 11 more musicians for Cycle E
- End of year quizzes
- Playlists
- Editable posters
- YouTube links with no ads
- More displays/lettering
- Interactive maps



Join our monthly mailing list



Join over 1900 teachers and receive our monthly updates from www.musicianofthemoth.co.uk.

- All About
- Primary Music News
- Blog Posts

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www.musicianofthemonth.co.uk