



Music Grade Descriptors

	Developing	Proficient	Confident	Mastering
Performing	Performs short phrases accurately and with growing confidence. Begins to use dynamics and articulation.	Performs confidently in solo or ensemble contexts with mostly accurate rhythm and pitch. Responds to basic expressive markings.	Performs fluently with secure technique, accurate pitch and rhythm, and clear expression. Demonstrates growing independence.	Performs with control, stylistic awareness and confidence. Demonstrates leadership and refined expressive control.
Composing	Composes short phrases using repetition and contrast. Begins to notate ideas with standard notation, graphic notation or simple technology.	Creates phrases using melody, rhythm and harmony. Shows some development of ideas. Notates ideas with standard notation or simple technology.	Creates short compositions with clear structure, contrast and development. Uses musical elements purposefully. Uses notation or digital tools accurately.	Creates imaginative and sophisticated short compositions with strong musical identity and effective control of structure and musical elements. Uses advanced notation or music technology.
Listening & Appraising	Describes music using basic musical terms (tempo, dynamics, pitch). Makes simple comparisons between pieces.	Describes and compares music using appropriate musical vocabulary. Recognises how musical elements are used.	Analyses music confidently, explaining how musical elements and context shape the music.	Evaluates music perceptively, making detailed and insightful comments about style, genre and purpose.
Musical Knowledge & Literacy	Reads simple staff notation and applies it in performance. Begins to understand scales and chords.	Demonstrates secure understanding of notation, chords and structure. Applies knowledge in familiar contexts.	Applies musical knowledge confidently across performing, composing and listening. Secure knowledge in keys and chord relationships.	Demonstrates a depth of musical understanding comparable to early GCSE level, applying knowledge independently and accurately.