

Japanese Composition Project – Year 7- Spring 2021



Key Vocabulary:

Shamisen; a 3-stringed lute, the strings are plucked.

Koto; A 2-metre long 'zither', plucked using picks on the thumb and first two fingers of the right hand.

In Sen; a way of tuning the Koto

Pentatonic; a 5 note scale

Kaito; a Japanese drum, played with two sticks.

Tzsumi; an hourglass-shaped drum

Biwa; a short-necked lute, played with a large plectrum or pick.

Shakuhachi; a bamboo flute.

Motif: a musical phrase linked to a character or action

Key Skills

National Curriculum areas 1C, 2a, 2b, 4c

1c) practise, rehearse and perform with awareness of different parts, the roles and contribution of the different members of the group, and the audience and venue

2a) improvise, exploring and developing musical ideas when performing

2b) produce, develop and extend musical ideas, selecting and combining resources within musical structures and given genres, styles and traditions

4c) identify the contextual influences that affect the way music is created, performed and heard

Final outcome:

COMPOSE INCIDENTAL MUSIC FOR THE ANIME 'SPIRITED AWAY' FROM STUDIO GHIBLI

We will examine how the music can be used for characterisation and to further the narrative of the anime, including use of motifs for different parts of the action, characters and situations.

We will learn the names and sounds and performance techniques of key instruments used in traditional Japanese music, together with compositional approaches including the concepts of pentatonic scales and notation, comparing these with traditional Western practice.

How does the music affect the mood of the Anime?



Sequence of Learning

Cultural background

Recognising Instruments

What is a Pentatonic Scale?

Japanese musical notation

How do we write down Music?

How does In Sen sound?

Facts about Anime: Anime are animated cartoons usually based on 'Manga' - graphic novels.

One of the best-known studios making anime is Studio Ghibli, with titles such as 'My Neighbour Totoro', 'Princess Mononoke' and 'Spirited Away'