



Subject community: Music

This resource has been developed to support teachers delivering our [GCSE and A-level Music](#) specifications, by providing access to a wide range of creative organisations that work in collaboration with AQA. These organisations offer a variety of materials, including teaching resources, workshops, events, and professional development opportunities, all aimed at enriching the delivery of Music in the classroom.

Although the content provided by these organisations is not endorsed by AQA, it has been selected for its relevance and potential to complement our specifications. Teachers may find these external resources helpful in expanding their subject knowledge, exploring new teaching strategies and engaging learners through creative, real-world connections to the arts industry.

GCSE AND A-LEVEL MUSIC – SUBJECT COMMUNITY

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Disney – Aladdin

Summary

- Disney's Aladdin was staged at London's Prince Edward Theatre from 2016 to 2019, offering audiences a unique behind-the-scenes experience.
- A variety of inspiring resource packs, designed by teachers for classroom use, are available.

Links

- Explore: [Aladdin the Musical educational resources](#)
- Watch: [Behind the scenes videos](#)

BBC Bitesize

Summary

- Music resources covering performance, composition, listening skills and analysis across a range of genres
- Videos designed to support GCSE and A-level Music.
- Comprehensive resources on music theory, set works, music technology, performance and composition.

Links

- Explore: [BBC Bitesize](#)
- Find: [Learning resources](#)

[Nate Holder music](#)

Summary

- Prof. Nathan Holder is an acclaimed author, international speaker, musician and education consultant.
- Valuable resources for music teachers, focusing on diversity and the decolonisation of music education.
- Includes articles and blog posts.

Links

- Explore: [Nate Holder Music](#)
- Find: [Learning resources](#)
- View: [Why music podcast](#)

[Royal Albert Hall](#)

Summary

- One of the UK's most iconic concert halls, the Royal Albert Hall hosts the BBC Proms, classical and pop concerts, ballet, opera and more. Experiences at the Hall are memorable and inspiring for audiences of all ages.
- A wide range of educational and outreach resources to support learning and engagement.
- Organised tours, performances and workshops.

Links

- View: [Royal Albert Hall](#)
- Find: [Learning resources](#)
- Investigate: [What's on](#)

[DJ School UK](#)

Summary

- A non-profit social enterprise based in Leeds with the mission of 'teaching the world to DJ.'
- Aims to make DJing accessible, engaging and educational, particularly for young people who may not connect with traditional instruments.
- Provides support and resources to teachers and learners at any level.
- Particularly popular are the jargon busting glossary and CPD videos.

Links

- View: [DJ School UK](#)
- Find: [Learning resources](#)
- Explore: [Online CPD and training](#)

[Southbank Centre](#)

Summary

- Home to renowned venues such as the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room.
- Showcasing a wide range of genres, including classical, jazz and contemporary to world music and electronic.
- Offers learners the opportunity to experience live professional performances, which is invaluable for developing listening skills and musical understanding through dedicated courses and learning resources.

Links

- Visit: [Southbank centre](#)
- Find: [Learning resources](#)
- Explore: [What's on](#)

[Disney – The Lion King](#)

Summary

- The Lion King is the long-running stage musical adaptation of the classic Disney film, playing at Lyceum Theatre in central London.
- The Secondary School Lesson Plans section offers thematic, music-focused lessons such as 'The Language of Music', where learners play instruments to represent characters from the show and 'Making the Music'.
- The education programme offers a variety of resources, including lesson plans with accompanying activity sheets.
- Behind-the-scenes videos includes backstage documentaries and interviews.

Links

- Visit: [Disney – The Lion King](#)
- Explore: [Teacher resources library](#)
- Watch: [Video hub](#)

[BBC music Ten Piece](#)

Summary

- BBC Ten Pieces introduces learners to the world of classical music in an engaging and accessible way.
- Offers a wide range of resources, including films, lesson plans and instrumental arrangements.
- The latest collection focused on women composers. Featuring works exclusively written by women to help improve representation of women composers in the classroom.

Links

- Visit: [BBC Bitesize](#)
- Explore: [Teacher resources – Ten Piece](#)
- View: [Newest collection: Women composers](#)

Royal Opera House

Summary

- The Royal Opera House provides a wide range of educational resources designed to support schools in inspiring learners in the arts.
- Online learning platforms support both classroom and home learning for Key Stages 3-5.
- Includes access to professional development opportunities such as CPD sessions and workshops.
- Live broadcast for schools to bring the world of performances directly to the classroom.

Links

- Visit: [Royal Opera House](#)
- Find: [Resources](#)
- View: [Classroom resources](#)
- Explore: [Our programme – Create & Sing](#)
- Investigate: [Teacher CPD](#)

Black History Month

Summary

- Featured on the I Can Compose website.
- Celebrates the contributions to Black composers and aiming to promote awareness beyond Black History Month.
- Showcases pioneering musicians who pushed stylistic boundaries, blending their artistic talent with a commitment to equality and social justice.

Links

- View: [I Can Compose](#)
- Explore: [Black History Month](#)

Handel and Hendrix in London

Summary

- Handel Hendrix House consists of two historic residences: Handel's house, restored to its appearance during Handel's time (1723-1759) and Jimi Hendrix's flat, preserved as it was from 1968–1969.
- The learning programme offers schools the chance to explore the lives and legacies of George Frideric Handel and Jimi Hendrix.
- Provides support for learners from Key Stage 1 through to university-level.
- Includes workshops, self-guided school tours and a variety of other educational activities.

Links

- Visit: [Handel Hendrix House](#)
- View: [Learning resources](#)
- Explore: [What's on](#)

Music for Youth

Summary

- Bringing together and showcasing the talents of over 30,000 young musicians annually.
- Music for Youth inspires and supports young musicians throughout their artistic development.
- Offers educational support and resources such as music mentors, workshops, classroom materials and instrumental resources.

Links

- View: [Music for Youth](#)
- Find: [Educational resources](#)
- Explore: [What's on](#)

Diversity and inclusion in music teaching

Summary

- Available on the Musicians' Union website.
- Designed to assist and support music teaching practices in promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion.
- Provides checklists to enhance accessibility and inclusivity.
- Offers examples of activities to diversify music lessons
- Guidance on supporting neuro-inclusive approaches within music education.

Links

- Visit: [Musicians' union](#)
- Find: [Teaching resources](#)
- Explore: [Events](#)

Black history in music

Summary

- Found on the Independent Society of Musicians (ISM) website, the UK's professional body for musicians and a subject association for music.
- ISM Trust offers informative webinars.
- Resources to help diversify your music lessons.
- ISM's celebration of Black musicians in the UK from 1910–1970, featuring British jazz and popular music recordings.
- A showcase of Black classical composers, including historical works and contemporary creations.
- Additional materials such as resource packs, articles, archives and blog posts.

Links

- Explore: [Independent society of musicians \(ISM\)](#)
- Find: [Teaching resources](#)

[The Bridgewater Hall](#)

Summary

- The Bridgewater Hall is a major international concert venue located in central Manchester, England.
- A broad selection of music resources available for young people and teachers to use both at home and in the classroom.
- Opportunities for learners to visit the Bridgewater Hall and engage with a music and sound experience.

Links

- Visit: [The Bridgewater Hall](#)
- Find: [Resources](#)
- Explore: [What's on](#)

[The British Music Experience](#)

Summary

- The British Music Experience (BME) is the UK's national museum of popular music, located in the historic Cunard Building on Liverpool's waterfront.
- The BME showcases a collection of stage costumes, memorabilia and instruments, tracing the origins, growth and impact of British pop culture, fashion and politics from 1945 to today.
- Offers interactive workshops and guided tours.
- Features the Gibson Brands interactive studio, where visitors can try playing a variety of instruments.

Links

- View: [The British Music Experience](#)
- Find: [Education resources](#)
- Explore: [Museum events and temporary exhibitions](#)

Focus on Sound

Summary

- Interactive digital learning platform. Includes a comprehensive dictionary of instruments and terminology with auto-marked tests and structured lessons.
- GCSE, A-level support and includes AQA set pieces.
- Extensive topic coverage including AQA areas of study such as popular music, classical repertoire, world music and contemporary genres
- Designed for homework, classroom and teacher-led use
- Cloud-based, providing access for learners and teachers on any device in and outside of the classroom.
- Options for Microsoft Teams and Google Classroom integration for seamless classroom management.

Links

View: [Focus on Sound](#)

Charanga

Summary

- Charanga Secondary combines interactive resources with powerful creative tools to support music-making and learning in the classroom and at home.
- At the heart of the program is [YuStudio](#), one of the most safeguarded and accessible digital audio workstations (DAWs) available. It works with any connected USB MIDI device or controller.
- Learners can securely save their work in the cloud and even score movies when using it. Ready-made projects and tutorials that support the teaching and learning of contemporary music genres are included.
- Quality-assured teacher training ensures learners' optimal use of the DAW and wider program.

Links

Visit: [Charanga](#)

LIFT Music

Summary

- LIFT Music is a gesture-based music therapy app that allows users to create and control music through movement.
- Designed with inclusivity at its core, it is accessible to all learners and developed with SEND students in mind.
- No prior musical knowledge or instruments are required.
- Simply choose a musical style, raise your arms and conduct the music in real time through movement and gestures.
- All you need to get started is an iPad or iPhone. For an enhanced classroom experience, an external speaker and iPad stand are recommended.
- Offer demos and free downloadable app.

Links

- View: [LIFT Music](#)
- Explore: [Case studies](#)

PlayScore2

Summary

- PlayScore 2 is an interactive sheet music scanning app using Optical Music Recognition (OCR for music) to play back printed scores accurately and smoothly, from a photo of your score or PDF.
- Flexible practice support such as isolating parts, changing tempi and pitch, in-built metronome, count in, and 23 instrumental sounds for playback (including piano accompaniment) – useful for pieces and ear training.
- Make playable scores for rehearsal (e.g. for choirs) so learners can practise and interact with parts while following in the score.
- Directly export sheet music as Full Notation MusicXML to notation programs such as Dorico, Sibelius, or MuseScore.
- Free downloadable app – App Store, Google Play and Window Store.

Links

View: [PlayScore2](#)

[MUSIC:ED](#)

Summary

- A global platform for the music education sector.
- It is designed to help schools, organisations and sector professionals raise their profile, share news, events, opportunities and relevant resources and connect with the wider community.
- It includes a school-facing strand – giving schools a simple way to share activities, showcase their work and contribute to a wider picture of music education.
- It supports visibility, discovery and sector engagement through curated content and partner participation.
- Visit [CHORALLY](#) a sibling platform serving the global choral sector, connecting choirs, composers and choral professionals internationally.

Links

View: [MUSIC:ED](#)