Key Stage 3
Music

Composing Signature Tunes

Learning Intentions

Pupils are learning to:

- identify how music can establish mood and atmosphere;

- compose a piece of music that would be appropriate for a news broadcast; and

- listen actively and share opinions, giving and responding to feedback (Working with Others).

Suggested Success Criteria

Pupils can:

- identify the musical hook in some television theme tunes;

- discuss how elements such as rhythm or tempo can be used for effect in television theme tunes;

- compose a piece of music suitable for a television news bulletin; and

- perform their own compositions.

Learning Activities

Introduction

Discuss the Learning Intentions and Suggested Success Criteria relating to this activity.

Lead a discussion about how theme tunes for television programmes:

- set the scene for what we are about to see; and

- manage to grab our attention quickly.

Activity

Play some signature tunes, for example:

- X Factor;

- Strictly Come Dancing; and

- Match of the Day.

Ask your pupils to try to identify and describe the musical hook that is used in these signature tunes.

Discuss together what type of music might be effective for the opening sequence of a news broadcast, for example:

- strong rhythms;

- a stirring theme; and

- a sense of urgency and importance.

Set groups of pupils the task of composing a piece of music for the opening sequence of a news broadcast. This would be an excellent opportunity to use GarageBand and the preloaded loops.

Give your pupils time to record, perform and appraise their compositions.

Extension activity

Give your pupils an opportunity to discuss and/or perform some of their favourite signature tunes.

Plenary

- How have your listening skills improved through this activity?

- Working with others, how did their feedback change the way you composed your music?

- What did you find challenging about giving constructive criticism?

- How successful do you think your composition was?