

MUSIC · PRE-K TO Y6

# Music Listening Bank

50 pieces with structured discussion prompts

## How to use this bank

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## Orchestral / classical (12)

Piece	Age	Focus	Ask the children
Carnival of the Animals — Saint-Saëns	Y1-Y4	Animals as instruments	Which animal is each section?
Peter and the Wolf — Prokofiev	Y2-Y5	Storytelling through instruments	Which character is each instrument?
The Four Seasons — Vivaldi	Y3-Y6	Mood / weather / season	Which season is this and how can you tell?
1812 Overture — Tchaikovsky (excerpt)	Y4-Y6	Dynamics and effects	When is the loudest moment? What's happening?
Hall of the Mountain King — Grieg	Y2-Y6	Tempo building	How does the music get more exciting?



Piece	Age	Focus	Ask the children
Jupiter — Holst	Y4-Y6	Mood — celebration	How does the music feel triumphant?
Aquarium — Saint-Saëns	Pre-K-Y2	Calm / underwater	What can you imagine?
Toccatina in D minor — Bach	Y3-Y6	Drama / instrument	What instrument is this?
Rondeau — Mouret	Y3-Y6	Repetition / form	What pattern do you hear?
Eine Kleine Nachtmusik — Mozart	Y3-Y6	Mood / classical era	Does this music make you want to dance?
Ride of the Valkyries — Wagner	Y4-Y6	Power / cinematic	Where might you hear this in a film?
Clair de Lune — Debussy	Y4-Y6	Calm / impressionism	What does this music make you imagine?

## World music (10)

Piece / artist	Age	Focus	Ask the children
West African drumming (Djembe traditional)	Y1-Y6	Rhythm patterns	Can you clap a pattern back?
Indian raga (any classical raga)	Y3-Y6	Mood / scale	How does this music feel different from Western music?
Mongolian throat singing	Y4-Y6	Voice as instrument	How is this voice different?
Japanese Shamisen	Y3-Y6	Plucked string	What does the instrument sound like?
Reggae — Bob Marley 'Three Little Birds'	Y2-Y6	Genre / Jamaica	What rhythm do you hear?
Salsa — Celia Cruz	Y3-Y6	Latin rhythm / energy	Can you find the steady beat?
Klezmer (Jewish folk)	Y3-Y6	Instruments / mood	How does this music make you feel?



Piece / artist	Age	Focus	Ask the children
Andean panpipes	Y2-Y6	Wind instruments / region	What might you imagine?
Aboriginal didgeridoo	Y3-Y6	Drone / breath	What animal might this remind you of?
Chinese erhu	Y3-Y6	Bowed string / pentatonic scale	How is the scale different?

## Pop & contemporary (10)

Piece / artist	Age	Focus	Ask the children
Lovely Day — Bill Withers	Y3-Y6	Mood / vocals	How does the music feel hopeful?
Three Little Birds — Bob Marley	Y1-Y6	Reggae / message	What's the song saying?
Lean On Me — Bill Withers	Y3-Y6	Friendship theme / harmony	Why is this a famous friendship song?
Shake It Off — Taylor Swift (clean version)	Y3-Y6	Pop production / message	What's the song's message?
Single Ladies — Beyoncé	Y4-Y6	Modern pop / structure	What's the structure of the song?
Africa — Toto (or Weezer cover)	Y3-Y6	Production / hooks	What's the catchiest part?
What a Wonderful World — Louis Armstrong	Y2-Y6	Voice / mood	How does this voice make you feel?
Don't Stop Believin' — Journey	Y4-Y6	Pop / build / chorus	How does the chorus feel different?
Skyfall — Adele	Y4-Y6	Drama / cinematic pop	Why is this a Bond song?
Hallelujah — Leonard Cohen / Jeff Buckley	Y5-Y6	Cover versions / interpretation	How are the two versions different?

## Film & TV (10)



Piece / film	Age	Focus	Ask the children
Star Wars main theme — John Williams	Y2-Y6	Heroic / orchestral	How does it feel epic?
Jaws shark theme — John Williams	Y2-Y6	Suspense / repetition	What's the danger here?
Harry Potter — John Williams	Y2-Y6	Magic / mystery	What magical thing might happen?
Up — Married Life by Michael Giacchino	Y3-Y6	Mood / story without words	What story does this tell?
Pirates of the Caribbean main theme	Y3-Y6	Energy / adventure	Why does it feel exciting?
The Lion King — Circle of Life (Hans Zimmer)	Y2-Y6	Cultural fusion / opening	What scene do you imagine?
Lord of the Rings — Shire theme	Y3-Y6	Cosy / pastoral	Where does this music live?
Tetris theme (Korobeiniki)	Y2-Y6	Game music / Russian folk	Why is this addictive?
Game of Thrones main theme	Y4-Y6	Cinematic theme	Why is the theme strong?
Inception (BRAAAM) — Hans Zimmer	Y4-Y6	Modern film / sound design	What feeling does this create?

## Mood-based (8)

Piece	Mood	Age	Focus
Spiegel im Spiegel — Arvo Pärt	Calm / contemplation	Y4-Y6	Minimalism / silence
Mars from The Planets — Holst	Aggressive / war	Y4-Y6	Rhythm / drama
Adagio for Strings — Barber	Sad / mournful	Y5-Y6	Slow build / strings
The Typewriter — Anderson	Playful / quirky	Y2-Y5	Sound effects / humour



Piece	Mood	Age	Focus
Sabre Dance — Khachaturian	Frantic / fast	Y3-Y6	Speed / urgency
Pavane for a Dead Princess — Ravel	Calm / reverent	Y4-Y6	Slow / minor key
The Lark Ascending — Vaughan Williams	Hopeful / pastoral	Y4-Y6	Solo violin / English landscape
O Fortuna — Carl Orff	Powerful / dramatic	Y4-Y6	Choir / dynamics

