### MUSIC: YEAR 7: GAMELAN

Year 7 pupils have recently completed work on the topic of ‘Soundscapes’ – the ability of music to convey meaning, create atmosphere and generate emotion. They are now moving on to the study of Gamelan – the traditional music of Indonesia.

Pupils should work through the weekly tasks below, completing the project work if they wish as an extension/enrichment task. Work can be completed on paper or, in any electronic form: the most important thing is to keep thinking, listening and learning!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Beginning</th>
<th>Before we start listening to the music we are going to find out some information about the culture and society of Indonesia. Can you discover the following:</th>
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| 20.4.20       | • Where in the world is Indonesia?  
• Where within the group of islands are Java and Bali?  
• Something interesting about the history of Indonesia  
• Some Indonesian traditions  
• What are the main religions in Indonesia? |
|               | These websites might be useful starting points: |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Beginning</th>
<th>Now that you have some basic information about the culture and society of Indonesia, we are going to move on to the music – Gamelan. Try to find out the following:</th>
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| 27.4.20       | • What is the Gamelan?  
• What types of instruments make up the Gamelan, what are they made of and how are they played?  
• Where is the Gamelan played? (What sort of occasions etc.)  
• Who plays the Gamelan?  
• What is the spiritual significance of the Gamelan?  
• What are shadow puppet plays and where can you see them? What sort of stories are the plays about? What is the role of the Gamelan in the plays?  
• How many different notes are there in Gamelan Music? |
|               | These websites will help you to find this information: |
|               | [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEWCCSuHsuQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEWCCSuHsuQ)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4C7T0-G7Ho](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4C7T0-G7Ho)  
[https://www.britannica.com/art/gamelan](https://www.britannica.com/art/gamelan)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfydro4X2t0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfydro4X2t0) |
**Week Beginning 4.5.20**

*Listening to Gamelan Music*

This week we are going to listen to and analyse some of the Gamelan music. Remember that this might sound strange because in other cultures music is organised and constructed differently.

Listen to music from the island of Java:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfrOSJRCsFM

- Describe the timbre (sounds) of the instruments that are playing.
- Give one word to describe the tempo.
- Only 5 notes are used in this piece. There is a special word that describes music made with just 5 notes. Can you find out what it is?
- Give a word to describe the dynamics of the piece.
- Give a word to describe the texture of the piece.

Now listen to music from the island of Bali:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldPMifPbngc

- Can you give 4 differences between this piece of Gamelan music and the piece from Java?
- Think about pitch, tempo, dynamics, texture and any other musical elements.

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**Week Beginning 11.5.20**

*Performing Gamelan Music*

If you have a piano/keyboard or other instrument at home then you can use that, otherwise here is a link to a virtual piano that you can use for this task:
https://virtualpiano.net/

Here is a melody (the BALUNGAN) from a piece of Javanese Gamelan music (a LANCARAN). Play it at a steady tempo, noticing how it only uses 5 different notes.

If you are confident in your keyboard skills, play this with the right hand, and use your left to improvise a lower, simpler part, still just using the 5 notes above. Try drones (long held notes) and chords (groups of 2 or more notes).

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**Week Beginning 18.5.20**

*Gamelan Instruments*

This week we are going to find out some more specific information about the instruments within the Gamelan. Take a look at this website and answer the questions below:
http://cornelios.faithweb.com/gamelan.html

- What is a saron?
- What are the wayang kulit puppets made out of?
- What are gongs made out of?
- How do Gamelan players sit when they are playing?
- What is the name of the double-ended drum beaten by the hands?
- What are the bars of the gambang made out of?
- How many kenongs are there in a complete set?
- What is the name of the flute used sometimes in Gamelan?
The gamelan often accompanies the traditional entertainment of shadow puppet plays – Wayang Kulit.

Here is an introduction to the Wayang Puppet Plays;

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfydro4X2t0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfydro4X2t0)

And here is an example of a similar style of puppetry used in something you might be familiar with!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJSh1zkPEvc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJSh1zkPEvc)

This article shows you how to make a wayang puppet of your own, and gives instructions for how you could create a shadow puppet show at home.


You need to decide which character you are going to create, and which story you could tell? Perhaps George and the Dragon, or King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table? Or do you know any other legends/traditional stories from our culture?