



Knowledge Organiser		
Topic	Overview	Resources
Medieval Period 500CE – 1400CE	Medieval music includes some of the earliest written Western music. It often featured chants, drones, and monophonic melodies, used for both sacred and secular purposes. Pupils explore medieval culture through performance and composition.	Gregorian Chant Cantigas de Santa Maria Medieval instrumental dances Troubadour songs
<u>Composition, Notation and Cultural Context</u> <u>Composition & Performance Skills</u> Create a chant using just 3–4 notes Write short verses about historical or moral topics Combine a drone with voice or tuned percussion Build simple ensemble pieces using modal scales <u>Cultural Context</u> Medieval music was mostly written by monks and scribes for use in church. Secular music was passed down orally and performed by travelling musicians. The earliest notation systems were invented during this period.		<u>Key Vocabulary</u> Chant – A simple, speech-like way of singing, often used in religious music Monophony – Music with one single melody and no accompaniment Troubadour – A medieval poet-musician who sang secular songs Timbre – The unique sound or tone of a voice or instrument Drone – A continuous low note underneath the melody Sacred – Music written for religious purposes, often performed in churches