

Teacher Guide: Music Remixed

Year 6 · Unit 5

Introduction

This teacher guide identifies musical learning and presents **I can statements** to support assessment. The **I can statements** show what successful learning looks like for teachers and feels like for children. The guide provides an **overview** of the unit content, the resources needed to teach the unit and offers some **key teaching strategies** to support successful teaching and learning.

The online Charanga resources for the whole unit are in the **Teacher Guide Resources**. Using these resources and this **Teacher Guide**, teachers may confidently plan their own series of lessons. To support such a planning process, each **Teacher Guide** offers six week-by-week summaries of teaching and learning based on the resources listed.

Unit Lesson Plans

Creative Music Scheme units also include a thorough series of lesson plans in a single **Lesson Plans** document to support a flexible and engaging approach to teaching the unit. Lessons are presented in sets of 2 weeks, and each lesson plan suggests a range of activities to choose from to meet the learning objectives of the 2 weeks. Over a year, the activities collectively reflect an outstanding, creative and inclusive curriculum that teaches musical skills and musical knowledge in a way that children can understand.

Every school allocates its own timeframe for music teaching and learning; therefore, select the activities that best meet the children's learning needs and your teaching. A main activity does not have to be hurried; enjoy spending time creating a quality musical experience by working through fewer main activities thoroughly.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit, children will be able to:

1. To create and arrange a remix of a song by layering original instrumental parts (drumbeats, basslines, melodies) with manipulated loops using music technology.
2. To listen critically to music in order to make informed creative decisions, and to evaluate the creative process and the final outcome of your own and others' work.

I Can Statements

- I can create my own drumbeat, bassline, and melody to build a track in YuStudio.
- I can select, add, and remix loops from the original song to use in my own work.
- I can arrange the different parts and layers of my track to create a complete song structure.
- I can make creative decisions to change and improve my remix, such as adjusting instrument sounds.
- I can share my final remix and discuss both my own work and that of others.

Unit Overview

This unit revisits “**The Dragon Song**”, a modern-day musical fable about kindness and inclusion. Children may have learnt “**The Dragon Song**” in Year 2. Whether they are familiar with it or not, this project offers the opportunity to revisit the piece as a **Listen and Respond** activity, featuring a performance by the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra**. The music highlights the beauty of a live orchestra and the rich, expressive colours it creates. Building on previous musical explorations, students dive into the world of remixing, using instrumental loops sampled from the orchestra’s violins. They refine their mixing skills by incorporating techniques from earlier projects, such as crafting melodies, basslines, selecting keys, adding sound effects, and developing immersive soundscapes.

This phase of learning will focus on mixing and production, encouraging creative experimentation and exploration. The project consists of six structured lessons, supported by instructional videos and **Detailed Project Teacher Guidance** located in the unit documents. You can choose to work collaboratively as a class or, by using **Yumu**, allow students to progress independently or in pairs. This engaging project combines traditional orchestral music with modern remixing, enabling students to develop their musical creativity while deepening their appreciation for live instrumentation.

Resources Needed

- Access to **YuStudio Dragon Beats Project** as a class or via **Yumu** and **student logins**.
- Optional devices (laptops, tablets, or PCs)
- Instruments (glockenspiels, keyboards, drums, or other classroom instruments)
- Projector or interactive whiteboard to display **YuStudio Dragon Beats Project**.

Weekly Suggestions

Week 1: Listen and Respond to The Dragon Song and Begin Creating a Re-Mix

Children listen to “**The Dragon Song**” played by the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** while following the lyrics. They listen and respond to the song together. Using **YuStudio-Dragon Beats**, they follow Videos 1, 2 and 3 to begin learning how to remix the song. The children start by creating a drumbeat in Hip-Hop style and a bassline to match the drumbeat. Children share and discuss their work. Please remind the children to save their work on the platform by activating auto-save or clicking on the file button in the top right-hand side of the lesson viewer and clicking 'Save'.

Week 2: Add a melody

Revisit Video 1 – Artist Introduction. Children open their saved file to review the drum and bass activity, completing or revising it to make any necessary changes. Children focus on Video 4 – Melody Activity and use the piano roll to create a simple melody to accompany their tracks. As their work progresses, they share and discuss the progress they feel they are making, as well as any barriers they have encountered that are preventing progress. Some children think about adding their own lyrics. Remind the children to save the work.

Week 3: Looping

Children open their saved file to review the drum, bass, and melody activity, completing or revising it to make any necessary changes. They continue creating their remix by opening **Video 5 - Add Loops and Arrangement**. Children learn about using loops through the song "The Dragon Song," remixing it, extending the loops, and adding their own vocal loops. As the lesson nears the end, they share and discuss progress. Remind the children to save the work.

Week 4: Creating a Re-Mix Arrangement

This lesson opens with a reminder of the original song and the instrumental sounds of the **RSNO**. Children open their saved file to review the drum, bass, melody, and looping activity, then complete or revise it to make any necessary changes. They watch **Video 5 - Add Loops and Arrangement** and experiment with track arrangements to create their own. Remind the children to save the work.

Week 5: Completing a Re-Mix of The Dragon Song

Children open their saved file to check through their work. In this lesson, they complete their remix, which is ready to be shared, discussed, and evaluated in Week 6. It is a final opportunity to make creative changes, such as adjusting the sound of the melody instrument or modifying the notes of any track. Watch any videos again that will support the final remix and check that the children have learnt and understand any new vocabulary. Remind the children to save their work.

Week 6: Final Performance and Reflection

Listen to each remix and be prepared to provide feedback and receive feedback. Discuss the best way to perform a remix, for example, whether it should be juxtaposed with the original. Does an audience need to be present to listen to a remix? The **Artist Evaluation video 6** provides an opportunity for children to reflect on their progress and learning, as well as any areas where they feel they might do things differently in the future. It includes a series of rhetorical questions to guide the class discussion, such as, What skills have you developed? What have you learnt? What would you change? What new words have you learnt?

Key Teaching Strategies for Success

- **Demonstrate and Model:** Clearly show how to access and log into YuStudio
- **Scaffold Learning:** Model re-mix by working alongside the children on your own re-mix
- **Encourage Collaboration:** Paired work fosters the sharing of ideas, balancing of parts, and ensemble awareness.
- **Reflect and Refine:** Begin each week with time for self-assessment to foster critical thinking, refinement, and confidence.

Conclusion

By the end of this unit, children will have learnt to arrange and mix their own version of “**The Dragon Song**” using **YuStudio**. They will have experienced complete creative control and made musical decisions, balancing the overall sound of their tracks. They will have created drum beats, melodies and basslines with note guidance, which will prepare them for further exploration in composition and production. They will have remixed loops and sounds from professional tracks, selected and used different instruments in **YuStudio**, while continually experimenting to create an effective remix.