

# Scheme of Learning: YEAR 8 GROUND BASS

## Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4	5	6
BLUES	GROUND BASS	REGGAE	REMIXES	SIGNATURE TUNES	BAND PROJECT

## Topic Overview:

This topic will introduce pupils to the musical device of Ground Bass, a repeating bass line and/or chord progression with developing material added over the top. Pupils will listen to some original examples of Ground Bass music by well-known composers from the Baroque period and will also have the opportunity to explore how these famous works have been cited in more recent examples of music and also how the technique provides the foundation of much contemporary electronic dance music.

Pupils will perform and multitrack layers from Pachelbel's canon, exploring how melodic ideas relate to chords and how the sense of developing complexity in the piece is achieved. They will then create their own ground bass pieces, learning how to compose melodic lines and applying their understanding of Pachelbel's canon to help them achieve a sense of direction and textural growth.

This project will build on prior work on chords undertaken during the Four Chord Song project in Year 7 and the Blues project at the start of Year 8. The melody-writing skills pupils will develop will then later be developed in the Year 8 Signature Tunes project and Year 9 Songwriting.

## Lesson Sequence:

Pupils will start the topic by listening to the famous Canon in D by Pachelbel and making observations about how the piece develops. They will learn to play the bassline and chord progression of Pachelbel's canon and will record this on Logic Pro.

Over the next few lessons, pupils will listen to a selection of more contemporary pop songs that have quoted Pachelbel's canon and will analyse how these are put together and how they develop. They will learn to play some additional melodic lines from Pachelbel's canon and these more recent songs and will work on their own arrangement with the aim of maintaining the ground bass throughout and achieving a constantly building texture.

Pupils will then choose from a differentiated chord sequence and use it to build their own Ground Bass composition over the next sequence of lessons. They will start by exploring the different ways chords can be used to create varying complexities of texture. They will then learn how to create a simple melody line, using Pachelbel's canon as a guide, and how to then elaborate on these ideas to create increasingly more complex melodies. They will then organise and present all these ideas as a finished Ground Bass Composition.

They will also complete a summative listening test to demonstrate their understanding and ability to apply their learning from the topic.

Sequence of Lessons:		Topic Resources:			
1	Intro to Ground Bass: Chord Sequence	Knowledge Map:	Yr8 Music 2: GROUND BASS	Any other Resources:	Canon in D
2	Layering Melodies				
3	Performance of Pachelbel Arrangement	Assessment:			
4	Ground Bass Composition: Developing your Chords	Knowledge:	10 Question Knowledge Quiz		
5	Ground Bass Composition: Composing Melodic lines	Application of Knowledge:	Listening Exercise		
6	Ground Bass Listening and Structuring Composition	Practical Skills:	Performance/arrangement of Pachelbel's canon, Ground Bass composition		
7		Supportive Listening:			
		Pachelbel	Canon in D		
		Coolio	C U When U Get There		
		Maroon 5	Memories		