

Autumn 1: Junior Saxophone

In Year 4, pupils develop their recorder skills further by moving on to the junior saxophone. Whilst finger positions and posture are similar, we will learn the correct embouchure for a reed mouthpiece and understand how sounds are produced. The saxophone is hugely flexible, and we will play orchestral, jazz, soul and pop songs as we explore both its role in musical history and its performing potential for us ourselves.



Autumn 2: Two-Part Harmony

At Year 4, we also sing in 2 part harmony, and we will explore rounds and partner songs as well as genuine SA compositions, comparing Medieval and 20th Century harmonies written by Hildegard of Bingen and John Rutter respectively. We will also sing for dynamics, smoothness, pitch and articulation and play our part in the KS2 Christmas performance at church.



Year 4 Music 2023-2024

Spring 1: Jazz and Improvisation

Perhaps the genre which most employs the saxophone is Jazz, and Year 4 will learn the its history and origins, clap syncopated rhythms and sing scat. We will analyse works by Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald; perform them and use them as inspiration for our own jazz improvisation including stab chords, staccato, dissonance and swing.



Spring 2: Caribbean Calypso

We next travel musically to the Caribbean to discover the origins and distinctive style of Calypso, embodied by Harry Belafonte, Lord Kitchener and Calypso Rose. We will play and sing in two-part harmony; understand dyad chords and syncopated ostinati;



play and compose our own simple Calypso songs; and consider the genre's legacy.

Summer 1: Beethoven's Orchestra

In the summer term, we will understand the fundamental building blocks of Western music: the time signature and the difference between major and minor keys. To do this, we will analyse, perform and compose in the style of a range of famous orchestrators, including Bernstein, Bach, Strauss and Beethoven (5th and 9th Symphonies).



Summer 2: Bhangra & Style Mixing

We conclude Year 4 by understanding how genres can merge to create a new, blended style of its own. To do this, we discover and play Bhangra folk music from India, which incorporates traditional chaal rhythms, melisma and instruments such as the tumbi with Western drum beats, electric guitars and synthesisers. This provides a further opportunity to play our saxophones and employ the skills we have learned this year.

