

Autumn 1: Ukulele & the USA

In Year 6, our focus instrument is the ukulele, allowing pupils to play chord sequences and explore how they underpin a wide range of repertoire. We will use a variety of strokes, and read staff notation and guitar chords, to play songs from the USA written throughout the 19th Century, illustrating the guitar family's importance in musical history.



Autumn 2: Part-Singing

In November and December, Year 6 learn to sing in 3 and 4 part harmony, including syncopation, using precise articulation, accurate pitch and attention to dynamics and expression. We will lead the KS2 Christmas performance at Holy Trinity Church and also perform as a mixed instrumental ensemble.



Year 6 Music 2023-2024

Spring 1: Rhythm & Texture

Music is essentially organised patterns of sounds, and this half-term will focus on the way composers use rhythm and texture to achieve this. We will analyse and perform Argentinian Tango, Middle Eastern folk and US Minimalism before studying British contemporary composer Anne Meredith and writing our own body percussion pieces in her dramatic and large-scale style.



Spring 2: Sea Shanties

Pupils extend their ukulele skills by accenting strokes, learning split Hawaiian and Formby strokes and the technique of finger-picking to play a melody. We will study folk songs associated with the sea, especially shanties, both playing a variety of well-known examples and then improvising and composing our own incorporating sung melody lines, chordal harmonies and rhythmic ostinati and repetition.



Summer 1: Composing for Orchestra

In their final term at CPS, pupils bring together all their learning over the last 7 years to become orchestral composers. Inspired by our performance of works by Tchaikovsky, Debussy, Orff and Stravinsky, we will use our understanding of the dimensions of music to write our own mixed ensemble works in ternary form.



Summer 2: Our Year 6 Production

The grand finale to our musical and dramatic learning journey at CPS is our staged, costumed full-length production, allowing us to put all our part-singing skills and dramatic expertise to the test before a packed audience. As well as performing, pupils contribute in many other ways, from script-writing to props, set and choreography.

