

Fast 4 Music

Fast4Music projects specialise in delivering dynamic sessions for KS2 in a range of instruments and styles. Our highly qualified tutors use the most current teaching methods and resources to inspire and engage young musicians in an accessible and exciting way. Whether you are introducing instruments to your pupils for the first time, or enhancing your creative curriculum, choose a project and we'll take it from there!

01

Explore the world



African Drumming

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

Using traditional African djembe drums, pupils will learn about the history and social context of African music while they play traditional beats and rhythms, progressing throughout the project from simple beat patterns to complex songs. This is a very accessible project, with a focus on building musical confidence in pupils of all ages. Throughout the course, children will learn to interact musically with other players in the class, building up their listening and improvisation skills so that they feel comfortable being creative with their drumming skills.



Harmonium

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

The harmonium was invented in France, but has achieved huge popularity in India and across South Asia, and plays a key part in Parsi and Marathi stage music. Its small size makes it the perfect first keyboard instrument for children. In this project, pupils will learn to sing note names, which is an approach used by great musicians from Beethoven to Ravi Shankar. They will also learn to read and write music, and play simple keyboard melodies in ensembles. It will give the children a firm foundation from which to progress on to other keyboard instruments.



Samba Drumming

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

This project uses a selection of traditional South American drums and percussion instruments used in the popular and lively samba dance music. Pupils will get to try out a number of instruments, including a large bass drum called a surdo, a smaller snare drum called a caixa, and the tamborim. Throughout the course, the children will be taught a range of samba rhythms, working towards a complete performance led by the tutor at the end of the project.



Steel Pans

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

The steel pan is the classic sound of calypso music, though in the 1940s it became such a popular instrument that it pops up in jazz, reggae and other genres too. A tuned percussion instrument, which originated in Trinidad and Tobago, it is the perfect teaching instrument for classes who will benefit from learning about pitch as well as rhythm. This project uses specially designed mini steel pans, on which the children will learn a mix of traditional and contemporary songs, supported by singing and additional percussion as the project progresses. Drawing on rhythm, timekeeping and team work, the end result is hugely impressive and is very popular with pupils of all ages and abilities.



Tabla

Years 5 & 6

The tabla consists of a pair of tuned drums from South Asia; they are particularly important in Hindustani classical music. In this project pupils will learn traditional rhythms by first speaking them, then playing them. Rhythm games are used to develop steady time-keeping, along with melodic chants and movement. By the end of the project pupils should be able to play tabla grooves in an ensemble, and to accompany traditional melodies.



Taiko Drumming

Years 5 & 6

This unique form of Japanese ensemble drumming uses authentic large wooden drums hit by sticks (known as bachi) resulting in an impressive mix of sound and movement. The drums, which were being used as early as the 6th century, were often used in war to motivate troops and call out orders. In this project, pupils will learn traditional Taiko ensemble rhythms, with a focus on working as a team to produce a full performance by the end of the project.

02

Join an orchestra



Recorder

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

The recorder's simplicity allows children of all ages to achieve musical results in a short space of time. Throughout this project, pupils will progress from playing songs using just three notes to group compositions, and two/three-part playing. Classes will learn the basics of rhythm and pitch through singing, clapping and interactive resources, and later in the project will have the chance to be creative with the instrument and compose their own pieces of music.



DooDs and TooTs

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

Doods and TooTs are new instruments perfect for beginners interested in learning the clarinet and flute. Small and light, the instruments are perfect for smaller hands, and are easy to keep clean. The DooDs look like miniature clarinets, a clarinet-style mouthpiece and keys which use the same fingering as a recorder. TooTs are based on the flute, but much shorter and with a lip plate to help younger children create the right mouth shape to play the instrument. During this project, children will learn the foundation of wind instrument playing, preparing them for traditional models of flutes and clarinets.



Woodwind

Years 4, 5 & 6

This project allows pupils to explore the woodwind section of an orchestra through listening, playing, and composing for their instrument. Made up of mainly clarinets, with some flute and saxophone, this project is designed to develop both individual and group playing skills. Throughout the project, the class will also be taught the basics of reading music, and learn some basic songs which they can play as a group or on their own.



Strings

Years 4, 5 & 6

The string section is absolutely integral to orchestras, but strings are also used in folk music, jazz, and in many other settings. Because they have flexible tuning, learning a string instrument challenges children to develop a good sense of pitch early on. In this project, pupils will learn the basics of how to play the violin and cello, and be supervised to ensure they develop good technique and a curiosity for the instruments. Throughout the course, the class will gain an understanding of reading music and rhythm work through a variety of games and songs which have been specially developed for this project. By the end of the course pupils will be able to play two or three songs as a group, as well as on their own.



Brass

Years 4, 5 & 6

A great introduction to a range of traditional brass instruments and how they are used in music, including cornet, french horn, trombone and tuba. This project will take pupils from the basics of how to hold and play their instrument to learning how to read music and play a range of pieces in different styles as a group.



Wind

Years 4, 5 & 6

Bringing together brass and wind this project is specifically designed to give pupils a chance to encounter a wide range of instruments which are traditionally used in orchestras and brass bands. Tuba, trombone, euphonium, cornet, french horn, flute, clarinet and saxophone are all available, and throughout the project pupils will progress from learning how to hold and blow their instrument to playing up to seven or eight notes of the scale, reading music, and playing together as a group.

03

Start a band



Stomp Class Percussion

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

This exciting project uses a wide variety of percussive sounds together with everyday objects (including brooms, brushes, dustbins and tubes), body percussion and voice to make music. Pupils will learn how to create and layer different rhythms, combine movement and music, and improvise to create their own work. The focus will be on creativity, and on the premise that you really can make music with anything! Following this project, a class would be ready to play world percussion, such as djembes or taiko.



Ukulele

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

The ukulele is a four-stringed instrument which originated in Hawaii, and is often described as a miniature guitar. This hugely popular project begins by teaching the class simple rhythms and strumming, before pupils progress to more advanced chords, including reading chord charts, assisted by singing and call and response. The small size and simplicity of the instrument makes it suitable for all ages. It is also the perfect introduction to other stringed instruments including guitar, violin and cello, onto which children can progress in other Fast4Music projects.



Harmonica

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

Known as 'the people's instrument', the harmonica is the highest-selling instrument in the world. Fun and easy to play, inexpensive and fits in your pocket! The instrument plays a huge role in many musical genres, including blues, folk music and rock & roll. It is played by blowing into differently tuned holes, which have the same tuning as the white notes on a piano. During this project, the class will begin by learning to play simple melodies on the harmonica, gradually building up to playing chords and different rhythmic patterns, and even improvising. By the end of the project, the class will be able to give a complete performance of the music they've learned.



Guitar

Years 4, 5 & 6

One of the most popular instruments of our time, the guitar is a fundamental part of almost all popular music genres. This project will introduce children to the basics of playing the guitar, learning how to form and strum chords, then move onto more advanced techniques. By the end of the project, pupils will have learned songs which they can play within an ensemble, and will have gained a firm grounding in the instrument which they can build on in the future.



Rock Band

Years 5 & 6

This project is a great opportunity for a class to experience an exciting mix of instruments and pop music. Using a combination of electric, bass and acoustic guitars, drums, keyboard and voice to form a true band (complete with name and drum artwork), the class will work together to learn and perform pop songs. The class will be broken down into smaller groups, giving the children more responsibility for their own parts, and the opportunity to work together with a team. By the end of this project, the class will have gained a foundation in their instrument, a basic knowledge of how bands work together, and confidence that they have the ability to take the music further on their own, or in another class.



Visit bristolplaysmusic.org

or call us on **0117 204 7140** for more information

Please be aware that some projects are only available for Years 4, 5, 6 due to the size or complexity of the instruments involved.