

Music—World War 1

Dear parents/carers,

In Music, we will be looking at wartime songs. We will also be looking at musical notations and symbols; using our knowledge of these to transcribe, play and compose different musical pieces.

In 1914, when World War 1 began, people did not have iPhones, Ipods or even CD's to listen to music. Instead people would listen to live music in local theatres, pubs and if you were lucky maybe a gramophone.

During WW1, many songs were played live and sang by: communities, soldiers and families. Songs like: 'It's a long way to Tipperary', 'Pack up your old kit bag' and 'Keep the fires burning', were used to keep up spirits and morale of the people left at home and the soldiers on the frontline. Many songs had lyrics that reflected what was happening in Europe at the time and the feelings of people impacted by war.

Can you remember a mnemonic to remember the notes order?

For example:

Every Good Boy Does Football.

The lines that these crochets (notations) sit on are known as 'staves'. Staves are normally 5 lines. These are used to help musicians read music universally.

Key vocabulary

Dynamics—The loudness or softness at which musicians play a section or piece of music.

Melody—A sequence of notes

Ostinato— A repeated rhythm or phrase.

Pulse/beat—The steady beat in a piece of music (what you might clap along to) can be referred to as the pulse

Rhythm— A pattern of long and short notes (like the pattern of words in a song).

Timbre—The character or sound quality of a note. Different musical instruments have different timbres.

Tempo - The speed at which a piece or section of music is played.

Pitch— Pitch is how high or low a sound is.