

Welcome

How to use these resources

Welcome to Orchestra Unwrapped 2025-26 – we are excited to be working with you and your students this year!

These resources are designed to help teachers plan lessons to familiarise pupils with the music we'll be listening to in the concert.

Music as a subject is under increasing pressure in schools across the country, so when designing these resources, we have been mindful that situations in each school are likely to be vastly different. Some schools might have dedicated music curriculum time led by a music specialist; others might have no regular contact time with the odd off-timetable day where music features, delivered by non-subject specialists.

As such, these resources are not prescriptive but rather lay out potential activities and tasks that you could use with your students.

Guide

There are 8 different pieces of music which will be played at this concert. For each piece, there are three **resources**:

- **Teacher Resource Pack**
- **Student Workbook**
- **Presentation**

Teacher Resource Pack

This contains information and tasks to support your teaching of the piece of music. Each piece has:

- Short 5-minute task
- Medium 20-minute task
- Longer 45-minute task

You might choose to do all three tasks for a piece of music, or you might just decide to do one of them. Each task has ideas to support and scaffold, and to stretch and challenge, with a range of tasks based around research, listening, composing, performing and linking to other subjects more widely.

- Research, Analysis and Listening Tasks are based around listening to the music and understanding the musical detail of the music – for example, how the instruments are being used
- Composing Tasks are based around creating your own musical ideas, often based on a given stimulus. This might involve writing the composition down or performing the composition in real time.
- Performing Tasks are based around making music. This could involve performing compositions written by other people or performing composition ideas written by the student.

There is also a Listening Guide for each of the pieces which highlights the main musical ideas linked to the YouTube clip at the start of the Teacher Resource Pack. There are also possible links to other subjects contained in the Teacher Resource Pack to enable you to see some ways the learning might be linked to other areas of the curriculum.

The ideas for each piece are often interchangeable; if your pupils responded well to a task in Beethoven for example, this could be reused for another piece in the set.

Student Workbook

The workbook is for pupils to work through the tasks outlined in the Teacher Resource Pack. These could be printed if you have access to this, but do not need to be if this is not required in your setting.

Presentation

The ideas from the Teacher Resource Pack and the Student Workbook are combined into a Power Point Presentation to make presenting the ideas to the class easier.

Other sections

There are also some other resources to help you deliver musical content and excite your learners about the world of orchestral music. These include:

- A Concert Etiquette guide to understand what happens in a concert – how do the orchestra get on the stage, tune and when does the audience clap? This includes a Teacher Resource Pack, Student Guide and Power Point presentation with activities to support teaching and learning.
- SOW Information, including how the resource links to the National Curriculum, the Prevent Duty, British Values and Differentiation – all useful if you have a more formal lesson observation

- Vocal Exercises as a warmup to get your class all working together at the start of a lesson
- What is an orchestra and a guide to the instruments of the orchestra
- Key words and music theory
- A section on Women Composers. This includes a Teacher Resource Pack, Student Guide and Power Point presentation with activities to support teaching and learning.

We hope that these resources are useful in giving you the confidence to teach this exciting topic within a hugely important subject area, and that they help to engage your pupils with the cultural significance of orchestral music-making. Making music is fun and here's to lots more children being able to experience that!

Richard Bristow

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Theme of the concert

Music, Identity and Legacy: the Philharmonia's 80th Birthday

The theme of the 2025/26 concert is centered around the history of the Philharmonia Orchestra, which was founded in 1945 by Walter Legge and is 80 years old in 2025. Legge worked for a company called EMI, which was responsible for making recordings of classical music.

Many of you will listen to music on a daily basis – perhaps through the radio, television, games or online, depending on your age. Sites like Spotify, Apple Music and Youtube have millions of users

across the globe, giving you instant access to so many different artists. Before these online systems were invented, music of all genres could be bought physically – initially on an LP disc, then cassette tape, then CD. It is amazing to think how much this area of life has changed in the last 80 years!

The theme of the concert is 'Music, Identity and Legacy' – or in other words 'It's Our 80th Birthday!'. The pieces have been selected to take us on a journey through time linking to the exciting history of the Philharmonia, from 1945 to today – a history you are all part of by being part of the *Orchestra Unwrapped* project!

The pieces in this concert all have special meaning to the Philharmonia during its 80-year history and these are outlined below:

Composer	Piece title	Date composed	Link to Philharmonia
Mozart	Don Giovanni (Overture)	1787	Performed at the first Philharmonia concert in 1945.
Beethoven	Symphony No. 5 (Movement 1)	1804-08	The Philharmonia recorded this piece, and it's on the Voyager Golden Records which were sent into space in 1977.
Stravinsky	The Firebird Suite (Finale) (1919 version)	1910 with revisions in 1911, 1919, 1945	Performed in Leicester's De Montfort Hall for the first performance there by the Philharmonia in 1995.
Elgar	Enigma Variations (Theme, IV, XI, VII)	1898-99	Performed in Bedford's Corn Exchange for the first performance there by the Philharmonia in 1995.
Ortiz	Papalotes	2012	Gabriela Ortiz is the Philharmonia's Featured Composer for the 2025/26 season.
Shigihara	Grasswalk from Plants vs. Zombies	2009	Music in gaming points to the future and how classical music is part of new technologies.
Silvestri	Theme to the Avengers	2012	The Philharmonia has recorded over 150 film soundtracks, and this piece from <i>The Avengers</i> is a good example of their work in this area. The Philharmonia were the orchestra performing much of the music for the film <i>Avengers: Age of Ultron</i> . Check out more here ►
Bizet	Carmen Suite (Les Toréadors)	1875	This piece was played in the first <i>Orchestra Unwrapped</i> concert in 2012.