

Area of Study 2 - Music for Ensemble

What?	Why?	How?
Small musical ensembles used in a wide range of musical contexts	Understand role of different instruments/voices within ensemble; how context affects the development of ensembles; how texture is manipulated within an ensemble; the relationship between performers on the stage, and the audience	Perform an ensemble piece for coursework; compose music for a range of small ensembles

Chamber Music		Musical Theatre		Jazz & Blues	
Basso Continuo	Bass and chords played by (usually) cello and harpsichord	Character song	Solo or duet in which music helps to show character's emotions	Walking bass	Steady, crotchet bass, typically moving in steps
Sonata	Music for small ensemble meant for secular performance	Ensemble number	Musical number involving several lead parts - often end of Act I	Scat singing	Using nonsense syllables in vocal improvisations
String quartet	Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello	Chorus	Group of onstage performers without featured roles	Rhythm Section	Underlying rhythm within ensemble. Drums and bass. Possibly keys.

Ensembles / Sonorities		Textures	
Vocal ensembles	Ensemble, Chorus, Backing Vocals	Monophonic	
Voice types	SATB - Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass	Unison	
Vocal techniques	Falsetto, vibrato, belt, scat, melisma	Homophonic	
Jazz / blues trio	Usually piano, drums, bass	Melody and Accompaniment	
GAMECHANGERS Suggested Listening Activities  Jazz Instrument Sounds LINK  Extended Reading Bitesize 		Polyphonic	
		Chordal	
		Counter melody	