Max’s Music Composition Planner

Learning objective: To compose a short musical piece by considering structure, rhythm, and dynamics to create a specific mood.

Max the monkey believes that every song is like a complex maths puzzle. Use this planner to organise your musical ideas before you perform or record your composition. Think carefully about how your choices will make the listener feel.

Word bank: tempo · rhythm · dynamics · crescendo · staccato · legato · pitch · structure · mood · instrument

1. The Musical Concept: What is the main mood of your piece and which instruments will you use to bring this mood to life? (2 marks)

2. Rhythmic Patterns: Describe the beat of your composition. Is it fast and energetic, or slow and steady? How will you keep the rhythm interesting? (2 marks)

3. Dynamic Changes: Where will you include a crescendo (getting louder) or a decrescendo (getting quieter)? Why do you want these changes to happen? (2 marks)

4. Structure and Form: How will you organise your piece? Will you use a repeating chorus or a verse-bridge-verse structure? (2 marks)

5. Reflection: If you were to add an extra layer of sound to your composition, what would it be and how would it change the overall feel? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Try performing your composition for a partner. Ask them to describe the mood they felt while listening and compare it to the original mood you planned.