

Music – A New Year Carol

Year Five and Six



melody

cover

pulse

rhythm

pitch

tempo

dynamics

timbre

texture

structure

dimensions of music

ostinato

phrases

unison

urban gospel

bhangra

folk music

By the end of this unit, you will know about Britten's Friday Afternoon Songs. You will be able to compare some of his songs to their cover versions as well as sing A New Year Carol with increasing confidence and control.

Important information



singing practice), started a long process of writing music for schools and Britten's lifelong interest in music for young people and in music education.

Background Information to the Song

In 1934, Benjamin Britten wrote a series of 12 songs for the school in Wales where his brother was a teacher. These songs, called Friday Afternoons (that was when pupils had their



Britten set to music text by many different poets and authors. The music always illustrated beautifully the mood of the text. All the songs are accompanied by the piano.

A New Year Carol is one of the Friday Afternoons songs. The text is a traditional Folk song and was included by Walter de la Mare in his anthology of poems for children, Tom Tiddler's Ground (1931).

In the 1920s and early 30s, children sang mostly nursery rhymes and playground chants, and Folk songs with simple accompaniments. When Britten composed these songs, they would have felt very contemporary to the children, just as it does when we sing the latest Pop songs at school today.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Title/Unit	Happy	Classroom Jazz 2	A New Year Carol	Fresh Prince of Bel Air	Music and Me	Reflect, review and rewind
Genre of main song(s)	Pop	Jazz	Folk	Old school hip hop	Multicultural music made by women	Revisit genres and learning

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	Each lesson uses the following skills	Lesson	What you will learn	Learning Review
Skill 1	Listening and Appraising Know that music contains rhythm and pulse. You will be able to compare and contrast different cover versions of the same song.	Step 1	Listen to Britten's A New Year Carol and appraise it – folk song Play pulse, rhythm and pitch games Sing the song Skill 1 and Skill 2	
Skill 2	Singing Know a range of songs from memory. Use language accurately to describe parts of a song.	Step 2	Listen to A New Year Carol and the Urban Gospel cover version of the song and appraise it. Play pulse, rhythm and pitch games Sing one or both versions of a New Year Carol. Skill 1 and Skill 2	
Skill 3	Performing and Evaluating Perform to your peers with growing confidence.	Step 3	Listen to I Mun be Married on Sunday by Benjamin Britten Play pulse, rhythm and pitch games Sing one or both versions of a New Year Carol. Skill 1, Skill 2 and Skill 3	
		Step 4	Listen to I Mun be Married on Sunday (including the bhangra version) and appraise it. Play pulse, rhythm and pitch games Sing one or both versions of a New Year Carol. Skill 1, Skill 2 and Skill 3	
		Step 5	Listen to Fishing Song by Benjamin Britten and appraise it (folk) Play pulse, rhythm and pitch games Sing one or both versions of a New Year Carol. Skill 1, Skill 2 and Skill 3	
		Step 6	Listen to Fishing Song by Benjamin Britten and the South African version and appraise it Play pulse, rhythm and pitch games Sing one or both versions of a New Year Carol. Skill 1, Skill 2 and Skill 3	