Composer of the month

In promoting musical literacy among our pupils, in KS2, we focus on **a composer of the month**.

In the National Curriculum it is stated: "*ensure that all pupils can perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians*".

To achieve this goal, we use **BBC Ten pieces.** (https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/all-resources/zdg3t39). This is a wonderfully rich resource allowing teachers to go deep into the subject. There are several videos: one is usually with the commentary about the composer and his music (we recommend to watch it first); the others are the performance by an orchestra of the whole piece or of certain parts of the piece of music. The commentaries in the first piece use a lot of musical vocabulary and demonstrates how to talk about the impressions/feelings created by the music.

Most of them also have Powerpoint presentations which are designed to last for 6 weeks. We suggest the Teachers pick out just a few elements that are most suitable for their class (for example, there are some simple but exciting patterns to clap or sing).

Ultimately, this should be an enjoyable and enriching activity when children expand their musical horizons and learn to appreciate and appraise music from different historic periods and various nations. Please, remember to be creative and flexible because it will be hard to stay still while listening to some of the pieces.

Month	Composer	Short introduction
September	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Austrian; 1756-1791 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was an Austrian composer and performer who could play and write music from the age of four! https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/KS2-wolfgang-amadeus-mozart-horn-concerto-no-4-3rd-movement/zmxtng8
October	Edvard Grieg	Norwegian; 1843-1907 Grieg was a composer who firmly put his country, Norway, on the musical map. Many of his pieces were based on Norwegian fairy stories and melodies. https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/KS2-edvard-grieg-in-the-hall-of-the-mountain-king-from-peer-gynt/z7nf3k7
November	Grazyna Bacewicz	Polish; 1909-1969 Grażyna Bacewicz not only broke new ground as a female composer in Poland, she continued to write music while war threatened to destroy her country. (*link to the Remembrance Day*) https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/classical-music-grazyna-bacewicz-overture/zf2k382

December	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky	Russian; 1840-1893 He was most famous for his wonderful and exciting ballet scores and symphonies. (*link to Christmas*) https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/KS2-tchaikovsky-the-nutcracker-waltz-of-the-flowers-russian-dance/z4y3rwx
January	Anna Meredith	British; born 1978 She writes electronic and acoustic music. *(link to British values)* https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/KS2-anna-meredith-connect-it/zhyyb82
February	Antonio Vivaldi	Italian; 1678-1741 Around 300 years ago when he wrote 'The Four Seasons', he was one of the first people to compose music that was designed to remind listeners of places and things in the world around them. *(link to the seasons)* https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/classical-music-antonio-vivaldi-winter-from-the-four-seasons/zf98bdm
March	George Gershwin	American; 1898-1937 In 1924 jazz and blues burst into the world of the classical orchestra thanks to George Gershwin, who composed music full of the energy and playfulness of New York City in the 1920s. https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/classical-music-george-gershwin-rhapsody-in-blue/zkcy6v4
April	Johann Sebastian Bach	German; 1685-1750 What makes Bach unique is his absolute mastery of the strict compositional techniques of the day. https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/johann-sebastien-bach-toccata-and-fugue-in-d-minor/zv2fxyc
May	Aaron Copland	American, 1900-1990 His music is said to 'sound like America' and often features a large, open sound (like the vast American prairies), and complex rhythms (like cowboys on horseback). https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/aaron-copland-rodeo-hoe-down/zvk9y9q
June	Ludwig van Beethoven	German; 1770-1827 His Symphony No. 5 contains one of the most famous motifs in musical history and has even been reused in pop songs! https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/KS2-ludwig-van-beethoven-symphony-no-5-1st-movement/zrsf3k7 Disco version of the 5th Symphony by Walter Murphy from 1976 – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MFbn8EbB4k *Why not try it (the disco version) as your tidy up music?*
July	Heitor Villa-Lobos	Brazilian; 1889-1959 Heitor Villa-Lobos led the way – bringing the instruments, rhythms

		and melodies of his home, Brazil, into the concert hall and creating a vibrant, exciting new sound. https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/classical-music-heitor-villa-lobos/z4nsmfr