



COLLINS 'MUSIC EXPRESS' – A SURE-FIRE SUCCESS!

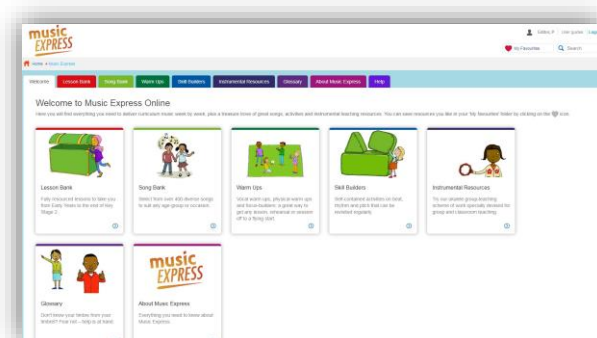
When the first edition of 'Music Express' was published in 2002, teachers everywhere gave a collective sigh of relief that the long-awaited answer to all their music planning prayers had been answered! However, no publisher can afford to stand still in a rapidly-evolving educational landscape, and so in 2014 the second edition was launched, to be received even more enthusiastically by the EYFS and primary workforce.



This 'Music Express' is an entirely new scheme – a more ambitious and imaginative project altogether - showcasing the talents and skills of respected and experienced music educators: Maureen Hanke, Helen MacGregor and Stephen Chadwick – an updated scheme that reflects the changes in best music education practice and incorporates cutting-edge technological advances. The new 'Music Express' offers exciting and diverse music lessons for generalist and specialist alike, with bags of pupil appeal, valid cross-curricular links and musical

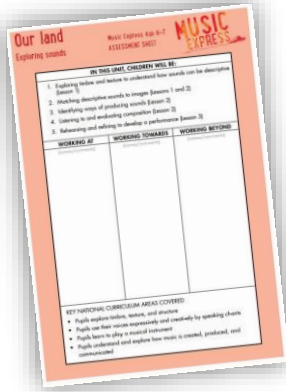
content which amply fulfils the requirements of the National Curriculum.

The revised structure of this later edition provides greater flexibility in order to support every type of school setting. 'Music Express' Years 1 to 4 offers 12 units of work per year, arranged non-hierarchically, under familiar topics to accommodate popular classroom themes and is delivered as three activities per lesson. The 'strands' of singing, performing, improvising, composing and listening are fully covered across all units presented in engaging and varied lesson structures. Y5 and 6 have longer units, following the pattern of half-terms, thus allowing for greater depth of study and extended work for older, more experienced pupils. Adjacent year groups, i.e. Y1 & 2, Y3 & 4, Y5 & 6 share common unit titles. This feature ensures musical progression, but also recognises the dilemma of those teachers working with mixed-year groups, practitioners who need a flexible music scheme to accommodate different age 'mixes' and variations in pupils' musical experience and understanding.



'Music Express' online provides exactly the same teaching material as the books; however, the digital version has additional supportive resources: i.e. *Song Bank*, *Warm-ups*, *Skill Builders*, *Instrumental Resources* and a *Glossary*. There are also assessment sheets for every unit, which follow the universally approved three-tier descriptors: *Working At*; *Working*

Towards; Working Beyond, to record pupils' progress: these borrow statements from the National Curriculum for Music, as criteria for assessment.

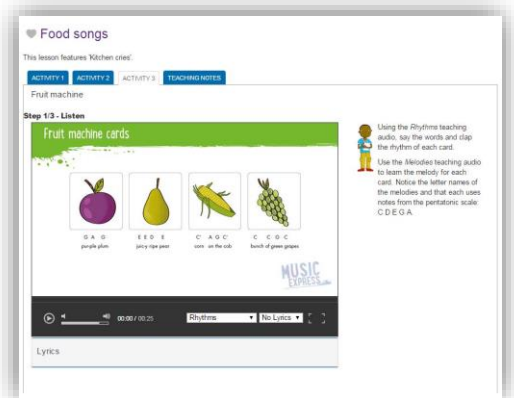


Being offered the choice of a published or digital scheme is very important. There are many small rural schools that still experience an intermittent or unreliable internet connection: the option of having 'Music Express' in book format is essential in order to guarantee regular music provision. The publisher sensibly permits teachers to make one copy of every DVD/audio CD - a very useful strategy, which I would recommend to all prudent music subject leaders!

'Music Express' provides hundreds of high-quality musical 'springboards' to encourage experiential and immersive music-making across the EYFS and Primary phases: the activities are appealing and engage learners, they support and empower teachers and offer opportunities for all pupils to explore music in every style, tradition and genre.

If you haven't yet taken up the 30-day 'Music Express' online free trial, I would urge you to do so!

Spring into '**Seasons**' (Y1) then launch yourself into **Solar System** (Y5).... sate yourself with **Food and Drink** (Y4) and then fire up a flamboyant flash mob in **Growth** (Y6). Enjoy exploring and sharing this excellent and proven resource with colleagues and pupils....and put music at the heart of your school's curriculum!



Find out more online at www.collins.co.uk/musicexpress and sign up for a free trial!

Author biography:

Sue Nicholls worked as a music subject leader in many primary settings during her career as a teacher, achieving the status of Advanced Skills Teacher - a role which allowed her to develop her particular passion within music education: the support of generalist teachers. She has published several music resource books for non-specialists for A & C Black (now Collins) and OUP: she also lectures on music modules for teacher trainees. Sue now works nationwide as a music education consultant delivering workshops and music-based CPD to schools and music hubs – she also leads the 'Fast-Track' Trinity CME programme for the Northampton University centre.