

# MUSIC CHALLENGE

## Practice Makes Perfect

1. Write down a goal you'd like to achieve through practising music. Try working towards this goal in the school holidays. At the end of the holidays, write down what steps you took to try and reach your goal. Have you achieved your goal yet? If not, what steps will you take to achieve it?

Hint: You can use the Aspire practice diary to help you progress towards your goal!

2. Learn to play or sing a piece of music by heart. You'll need to stick with your piece of music and plan some practice sessions. You may even make a few mistakes along the way – but don't give up, we all need to make a few mistakes to get better! Why not show off your piece to your family with a mini concert?

3. Teach someone else to play a new tune or sing a new song. It could be one you've already learned in lessons, or you could learn a new tune yourself to teach someone. What skills did you need to teach your tune to someone else? Did you find it easier to learn the new song or teach it?

## Get Creative

4. Pick a song you like. Rewrite the song in a different musical style OR write your own lyrics to change the meaning of the song. Is your version even better than the original? Share your version with someone else and play them the original - ask for some feedback. What did they like about their favourite version?

5. Write a short piece of music in any style. It could be a short song with lyrics, or you could write a simple tune on an instrument. Why not try performing it for friends or family? Or if you can, try writing the score for someone else to perform.

6. Re-write the soundtrack to your favourite film! Pick a scene you love from your chosen film and watch it with the sound switched to mute. Think about how the music and sound effects could be different or better. Make up your own version of the soundtrack using an instrument you play or your voice, as well as some sound effects that fit into the scene.

## Listen and Learn

7. Play a game of musical bingo with friends or family! Make a musical bingo grid for each player - each player's grid should have the same squares in a different order. Play a music playlist or listen to the radio until a player has got 'bingo' by crossing off a row.

8. Watch a scene from a TV show or film where music is playing. Then rewind it and watch the scene again on mute. What's different about the scene when you listen without music? Why do you think the filmmaker decided to use this piece of music for this scene?

9. Pick a composer or songwriter. Do some research online or in a book and try to find out about their musical journey. How did they learn to sing or play music? Did they practise a lot or wing it? Were there any important people or life events that influenced how they make music?



## PROUD PERFORMANCE

10. Perform a piece of music to friends or family. This could be a piece you've learned in lessons, taught yourself to play or even one you wrote! Ask them to give you some helpful feedback. How do you feel before and after performing your piece? Why do you think it's important to ask for feedback when you're learning something new?

11. Sign up to take part in a group musical performance. This could be through your school or a club you go to outside school. It might be a musical play, a band or choir – or even a talent show! Making music with others is good for us in lots of different ways. Which skills did you use when you practised and performed with others?

12. Find out about a live musical performance that's happening at your school, community centre or a local venue or festival and go along with friends or family. How did the live music make you feel? In what ways is it different from listening to recorded music? Chat to your friends or family after and share your most memorable moments.

### THE RULES

- 1: You can collect **one credit** on Aspire for each of the music challenge activities.
- 2: You can do the activities at lunch time, after school, at the weekend or in the holidays. You'll need to do the activities outside class time to collect your credits.
- 3: You can only collect credits for each activity once per term. That means if you collect credits for activity 1 you can't collect another credit for that activity until next term.
- 4: Remember to log your credits at: [www.CUS-Aspire.com](http://www.CUS-Aspire.com)!

### How to Log your credit

- Step 1: Go to [www.CUS-Aspire.com](http://www.CUS-Aspire.com)
- Step 2: Click on the 'Find Activities' button (hint: ask your teacher if you need help finding this!)
- Step 3: Type 'Music Challenge' in the search box.
- Step 4: Pick the activity you did from the list.

### Practice Diary

Download the Children's University Music Diary to collect even more credits! Use the diary to record your reflections with each week of music practice. Download it at: [www.childrensuniversity.scot/cu-members/download-learning-activities](http://www.childrensuniversity.scot/cu-members/download-learning-activities)

We Love to Hear From you!

Want to show off your hard work? Or inspire others to try the Music Challenge? Get in touch and tell us about the activities you've been doing for the Music Challenge and we might make you famous on our website and social media!

Email: [contactus@childrensuniversity.scot](mailto:contactus@childrensuniversity.scot) Facebook: **Children's University Scotland**  
Twitter: **@ChildrenUniScot**

