



Year 7 Music: ENSEMBLE SKILLS

Key Information

Working as part of an **ensemble** is an important part of being a musician at St. Ivo, developing **timing** and **listening skills**.

African drumming styles vary across the countries of **Africa**. Ensembles are made up from djembes, dun-duns, bells and rattles.



The Master Drummer leads the ensemble. Rhythms and vocal melodies are learned **by ear**.

The Top Secret Drum Corps are a famous ensemble who use incredible ensemble skill, impressive playing, and complex tricks to exemplify the **drum line** genre. Their level of ensemble is incredible!

Vocal ensembles sing in harmony and work together to create a beautiful sound! Participating in one helps with **pitching** and **tuning**.



Keyword	Meaning
Ensemble	Making music together, as part of a group
Djembe	A goblet-shaped hand drum with goat skin
Snare Drum	A drum with snares stretched across the lower head
Off beat	Musical events which happen in between the beats.
Rhythm	Patterns of long and short sounds in music.
Syncopation	Jazzy, funky rhythms with some off beat emphasis.
A cappella	Singing without an instrumental accompaniment.

Analysis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7jsVsUNWsM>

Watch The Top Secret Drum Corps perform. How many different tricks can you see? Comment on their timing and ensemble skill. What would *you* try to include in your own drum line?!

Stretch and Challenge – improve your timing!

Good timing is a vital part of playing well in an ensemble – follow this great youtube tutorial on how to improve your musical timing.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WlzLXr7xecY>

M	A	D	T	S	H	I	R	T
Melody	Articulation	Dynamics	Tempo	Structure	Harmony	Instruments	Rhythm	Texture

The main tune	How the music is played	The volume of the music	The speed of the music	The sections of the music and their order	The chords used	What instruments are used and the sound produced	The patterns of sounds with the beat	Layers of music – how many and what each does
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