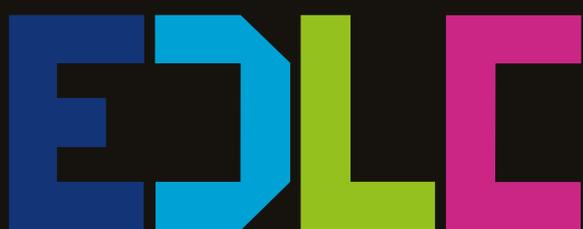


QUAVERS MUSIC



ED LEISURE + CULTURE
Cultural Services



Music Machine

A music literacy resource for
children from pre-school to
Primary 4 (age 3 - 9 years)

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INTRODUCTION BY THE AUTHOR



Deirdre Hamilton

I am an experienced, Scottish-trained primary teacher who has been introducing children to music since 1989. During my teacher training, I specialised in the teaching of French and Music in primary schools. After several years teaching experience in primary and nursery schools in Glasgow, Leicester, Leicestershire and North Wales, I became interested in the idea of applying and combining my experience of

teaching language, reading and music in primary and nursery schools to create a totally new approach to the teaching of music in informal groups.

The Quavers Musicianship Course for Children was founded on the 1 June 1989. Since then many hundreds of children have benefited from an excellent grounding in sight reading, musicianship and the theory of music... while having fun. I continue to teach workshops and never fail to delight in the enjoyment, fun and confidence the children get from making music and performing together.

As a primary teacher experienced in teaching reading, I designed the course with the child's experience very much in mind. The development process centered on finding the correct presentation to unlock understanding and interest; breaking down musical concepts to their smallest logical parts and relating them to the small but developing world of the child.

“...thousands of children have delighted in Donald the Drum, the Note Family and the Musical Adventure, gaining valuable music skills and confidence along the way.”

The Quavers Musicianship Course can enable children from three years old to read, write, understand and play music. Each new musical concept, however complex, has been analysed, simplified and presented in a way which is both effective and fun. Children are captivated by The Note Family whose adventures unfold in stories, songs and games throughout the course. The unique presentation captures the children's imaginations as they explore the language of music.

Over the years, I have developed and refined the course, producing a series of attractive, child-friendly and effective books to accompany the course. The books are designed to be coloured and personalised by each child. The children quickly learn to recognise the symbols of music notation and how to use them to create and perform rhythmic patterns and then melodies.

Children are motivated to learn through interest and enjoyment and using this unique method, will acquire the skills, experience, confidence and motivation to set them on the road to success in learning any instrument within their physical capabilities.

MUSIC MACHINE IN EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE



Kirsty Hamilton

In partnership with East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture Trust, Quavers Music in collaboration with Quavers Music Scotland have created the Music Machine Course, for use in Nursery, Primary School and Library settings. Over a period of five years, teachers, nursery staff and librarians have been trained to deliver the course, supported by Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative.

A second phase of the course, known as Stepping Stones, has been piloted in schools and libraries and has been incorporated into the teaching pack. In East Dunbartonshire libraries, Music Machine and Stepping Stones sessions now feature regularly on the events calendar. Literally thousands of children have delighted in Donald the Drum, the Note Family and the Musical Adventure, gaining valuable music skills and confidence along the way.

The Music Machine course consists of a compact library of highly effective, efficient and thoroughly tested techniques and resources. The combination is ideal, because all activities have been developed to be almost infinitely adaptable. Course leaders will be trained to tailor the presentation according to the age and experience of the group, ensuring that participating children achieve the highest possible levels of performance, musical understanding and sight reading.

“Uniquely, Music Machine has been designed to be accessed by both musicians and non-musicians.”

Uniquely, Music Machine has been designed to be accessed by both musicians and non-musicians. Once you have practised the techniques and are familiar with the carefully graded materials, very little lesson planning is required to deliver the course effectively. The core activities can be used both to introduce concepts and consolidate understanding.

The Music Machine course, combined with training, enthusiasm and imagination, cannot fail to achieve remarkable results in introducing and developing musical skills, confidence and understanding.

Kirsty Hamilton is a classical and folk violinist, Taiko drummer, director of Quavers Music Scotland, and Psychology graduate of the University of Glasgow, where she researched the benefits of musical participation in pre-school children. She has been involved in delivering and developing the Quavers Musicianship Course for Children since 1990 in England, California, Japan and Scotland. Kirsty has worked as a music leader in schools, nurseries, and community settings and has adapted aspects of the course for her work with children and adults with additional support needs. For five years, Kirsty has been successfully training non-specialist teachers, nursery staff and librarians in the delivery of the Music Machine course within East Dunbartonshire.

MUSIC MACHINE INTRODUCTION

This Music Machine resource has been created for teachers, music specialists and non-specialist educators. It is recommended for use with groups of children aged three to eight years old, but is adaptable for use with older children, in parallel with learning an instrument. The Quavers Recorder course is the ideal next step for those groups ready to progress on from Music machine.

Over a number of years, we have evaluated and measured the impact of Music Machine in nurseries, schools and libraries. Here is a selection of the wonderful feedback we have collected:

“We love Music Machine! It’s easy to use and fun to deliver with the youngest of children, who love making music together through stories, songs and even by going on musical adventures together. Donald the Drum is a firm favourite and helps the children develop skills in pitch, rhythm and syllabification, all of which are key to building early literacy skills.”

Head Teacher, Colquhoun Park Primary School, Bearsden

“Enjoyable for everyone involved and the children absorb all sorts of useful skills in a very natural, happy way.”

Children and Families Co-Ordinator
EDLC Libraries

“The activities introduced worked well on a cross-curricular level: the children were even storytelling, which is particularly beneficial to their language development.”

“The children were very enthusiastic about the music lessons and were effectively engaged for the duration of each session. The activities were well suited to them and their level and were delivered in a fun and fast paced way. I also noticed that quiet and less confident children in the class seemed to really thrive during the lessons.”

“I think it really helped to improve the children’s confidence and listening skills which has transferred into other areas of the curriculum.”

“I was very impressed with what children of all abilities picked up through the course: all the children got something out of it. I am particularly amazed at what certain children with learning problems have achieved.”

“The activities could easily be led by staff because it is not necessary for them to play an instrument, unlike other courses.”

“You could adapt any of the activities to integrate with your planning.”

“The course was relevant to nursery curriculum, children were able to express themselves using musical instruments and respond to rhythm.”

“Great ideas presented in a straightforward way. A super resource.”

EXPERIENCES AND OUTCOMES

Learning experience / activity	The Instrument Songs	The Note Family	Donald the Drum	The Magic Garden	The Musical Adventure	The Recorder Course
Singing and playing along	X	X	X			
Instrumental skill acquisition	X		X		X	X
Playing with sound and rhythm, dynamics	X		X		X	X
Playing with / responding to pitch				X		X
Creativity: Expressing ideas through music	X				X	X
Learning about notation	X	X	X		X	X
Performance	X		X	X	X	X
Using Performance Direction	X				X	X