

IB Music at Harrison Trimble High School

Teacher: Laura Burns

Course Duration: September 2025 – January 2027



Welcome to IB Music

IB Music offers an exciting opportunity to explore music as a creator, performer, and researcher. This course combines practical musicianship, critical analysis, and cultural exploration, encouraging students to engage with music in meaningful and creative ways.

Course Overview

The curriculum integrates key components: Exploring, Experimenting, and Presenting Music, as well as a Contemporary Music Maker (CMM) project. Each component is linked to specific areas of inquiry (AOIs): personal, local, and global contexts.

Year 1: September 2025 – June 2026

1. Introduction to IB Music

- Overview of the course structure and assessment components.
- Self-reflection: Your identity as a musician.
- **Activities:** Journaling, listening logs, and small performance exercises.

2. Investigating Music

- Analysis of diverse musical traditions: Western classical, folk, world music, and modern styles.
- **Activities:** Building a shared listening log, practical analysis exercises, and score studies.

3. Presenting as a Performer

- Research and rehearsal techniques.
- Developing a performance plan and journaling progress.
- **Activities:** Four performance opportunities spread throughout the year.

4. Experimenting with Music

- Exploration of avant-garde composers (e.g., John Cage, Steve Reich).
- **Activities:** Create and perform pieces excerpts of music in different styles and refine some assessment.

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5. Scales and Modes of the World

- Study of diverse musical scales (e.g., African Kora, Indian ragas, jazz modes).
- **Activities:** Create and experiment using scales and modes from global traditions.

6. Exploring Music in Context

- Select and refine pieces for the Exploring Music portfolio.
- **Activities:** Complete research and analysis tasks, then use journals and logs to create a cohesive project.

Year 2: September 2026 – January 2027

1. Performance Techniques and Interpretation

- The study of genres like protest music, film scores, and national anthems.
- **Activities:** Research, group presentations, and individual experimentation in performance.

2. Presenting as a Creator

- Develop original compositions inspired by personal or studied themes.
- **Activities:** Refine compositions for the Presenting portfolio.

3. Contemporary Music Maker (CMM) Project

- Collaboration with peers or external artists to create a unique multi-media music project.
- **Activities:** Brainstorm ideas, plan projects, and develop an artistic vision.

4. Editing and Submission

- **Exploring Portfolio:** Finalize and edit all required elements.
 - **Experimenting Portfolio:** Finalize and edit all required elements.
 - **Presenting Portfolio:** Ensure MP3 files, program notes, and paperwork are complete.
 - **CMM Project:** Prepare for presentation and submit the final project.
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Assessments

1. Internal and External Assessments:

- **Exploring Music in Context Portfolio:** A collection of research, and two related practical tasks.
- **Presenting Portfolio:** A portfolio of performance and composition with an accompanying program note.
- **Experimenting Portfolio:** Evidence of creative exploration in presenting and creating music.
- **CMM Project:** A collaborative, multimedia-based music project.

2. Ongoing Assessments:

- Formative feedback on in class tasks, journaling, compositions, and rehearsals.
 - Peer and teacher evaluations of performances and projects.
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Resources

• Primary Materials:

- Music scores, academic journals (e.g., JSTOR), recordings, and textbooks.
- Online tools: Soundtrap, Flat.io, Google Suite.

• Equipment:

- Keyboards, guitars, mixers, microphones, and music creating software.
 - Access to the school's auditorium and rehearsal spaces.
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Skill Development

- **Creativity:** Develop original compositions and explore experimental techniques.
 - **Musicianship:** Enhance performance skills across diverse genres.
 - **Cultural Awareness:** Analyze and reflect on music from global traditions.
 - **Collaboration:** Work with peers and artists to create impactful music projects.
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Why Study IB Music?

IB Music is for students passionate about deepening their musical understanding and skills. This course fosters creativity, analytical thinking, and a lifelong appreciation for music's cultural and personal impact.