PREMIER MUSIC ACADEMY

Parent Curriculum Handbook

Your Child's Musical Journey at Premier Music Academy

Edition 2026 - 2027



ALL-STEINWAY INSTITUTION
STEINWAY & SONS

Welcome to Premier Music Academy.

We are delighted to welcome your family into our musical community.
Whether your child is beginning their very first lesson or continuing an established musical journey, every student at PMA follows a carefully designed curriculum that develops far more than technical ability.

Our goal is to nurture confident, creative and independent musicians who enjoy making music, think musically and continue learning throughout their lives.

This handbook introduces the philosophy behind the PMA Curriculum, explains how your child will learn, and outlines the journey they will experience throughout their time with us.



Our Philosophy

Every child can become a confident, creative and independent musician.

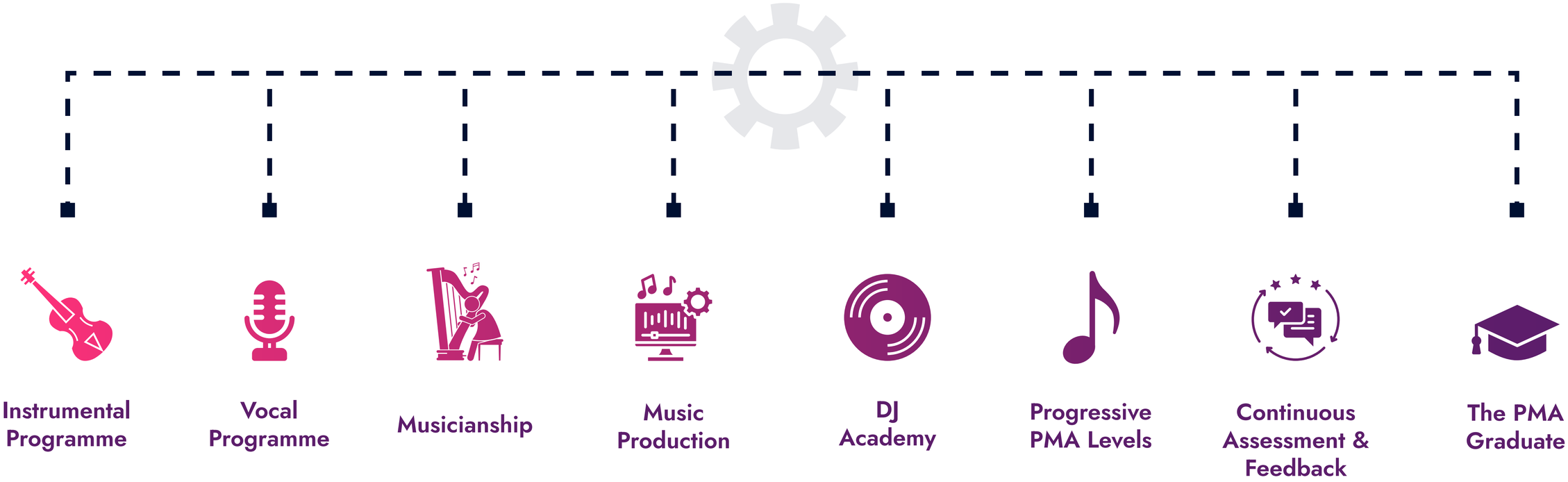
At Premier Music Academy, we believe music education extends beyond learning notes or preparing for examinations.

True musical growth occurs when technical skills, creativity, musical understanding, listening and confidence develop together.

Our curriculum has therefore been carefully designed using international educational standards, conservatoire teaching practices and our own teaching philosophy to support every child in becoming a complete musician.

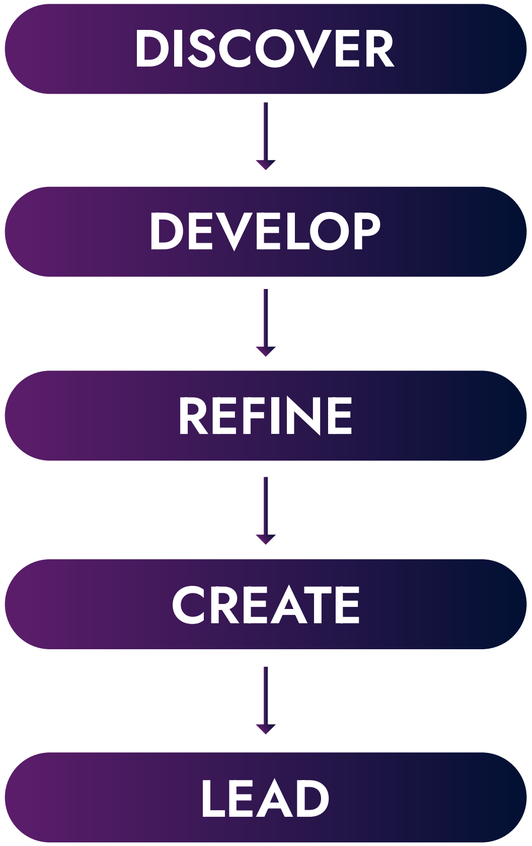
- Technical Excellence
- Musical Literacy
- Artistic Expression
- Performance Confidence
- Creativity
- Independent Learning

The PMA Learning Framework



Every programme at PMA follows the same educational philosophy, ensuring students receive a connected and holistic musical education regardless of the pathway they choose.

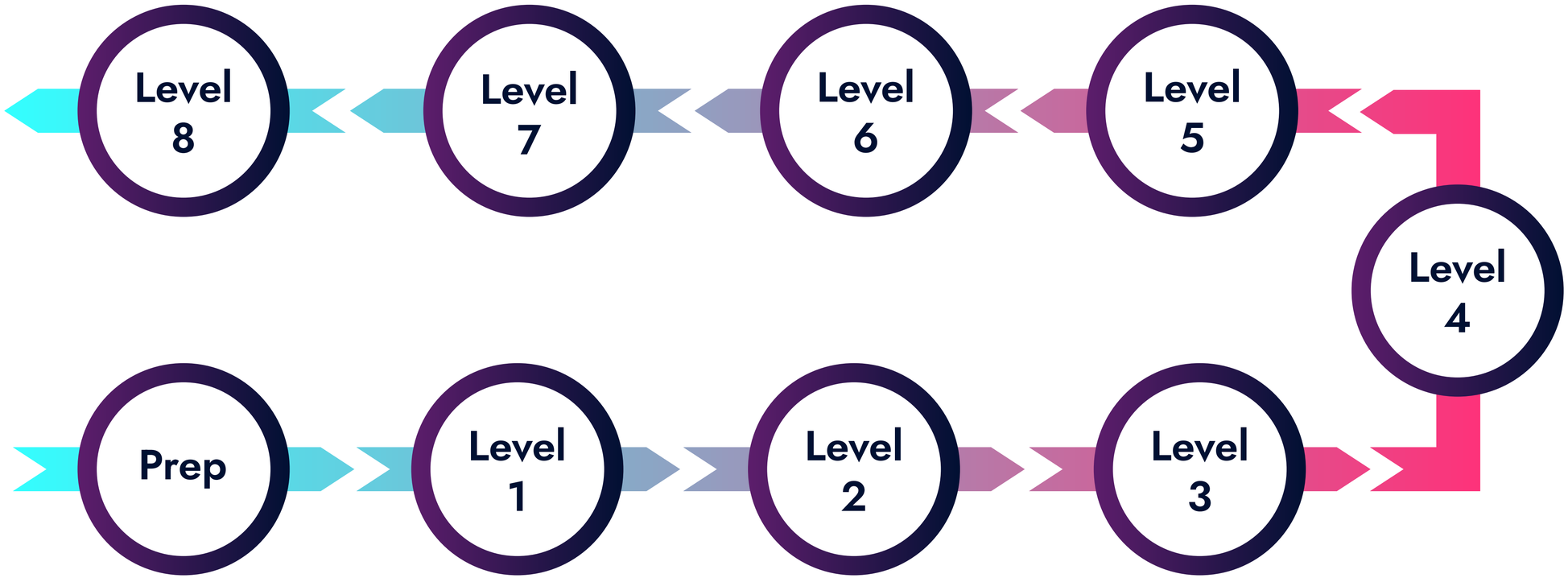
The PMA Musical Journey



Phase	Student Experience
Discover	Curiosity, exploration and confidence
Develop	Building secure skills and understanding
Refine	Deepening musicality and independence
Create	Artistic thinking and personal expression
Lead	Confident collaboration and lifelong musicianship

this progression reflects increasingly sophisticated thinking and independence as students mature, rather than simply learning more difficult pieces.

PMA Levels



Levels represent a student's overall musical development and are not determined solely by age or examination grades. Students progress when they demonstrate secure understanding, practical skills and readiness for the next stage.

Instrumental Programme



Six Curriculum Strands

1

Technical Development

The physical foundations for confident, healthy performance - posture, coordination, finger technique, scales and technical studies.

2

Music Literacy

Understanding and communicating through written music - notation, rhythm, theory, score reading and sight-reading.

3

Tone Production & Sound Quality

Producing a characteristic, expressive and stylistically appropriate tone through bow control, breath, touch or embouchure.

4

Performance & Repertoire

Building confidence performing through repertoire that reflects increasing technical and artistic maturity.

5

Musicianship & Aural Development

Listening, stylistic understanding, creativity, improvisation and interpretation woven through every stage of learning.

6

Independent Learning & Professional Habits

Productive practice routines, self-organisation, reflection and increasing ownership of musical development.

Musicianship

The Language Behind Every Musician

Listen → **Understand** → **Read**

Recognising rhythm, melody, harmony, dynamics and musical expression.

Understanding the building blocks and language of music.

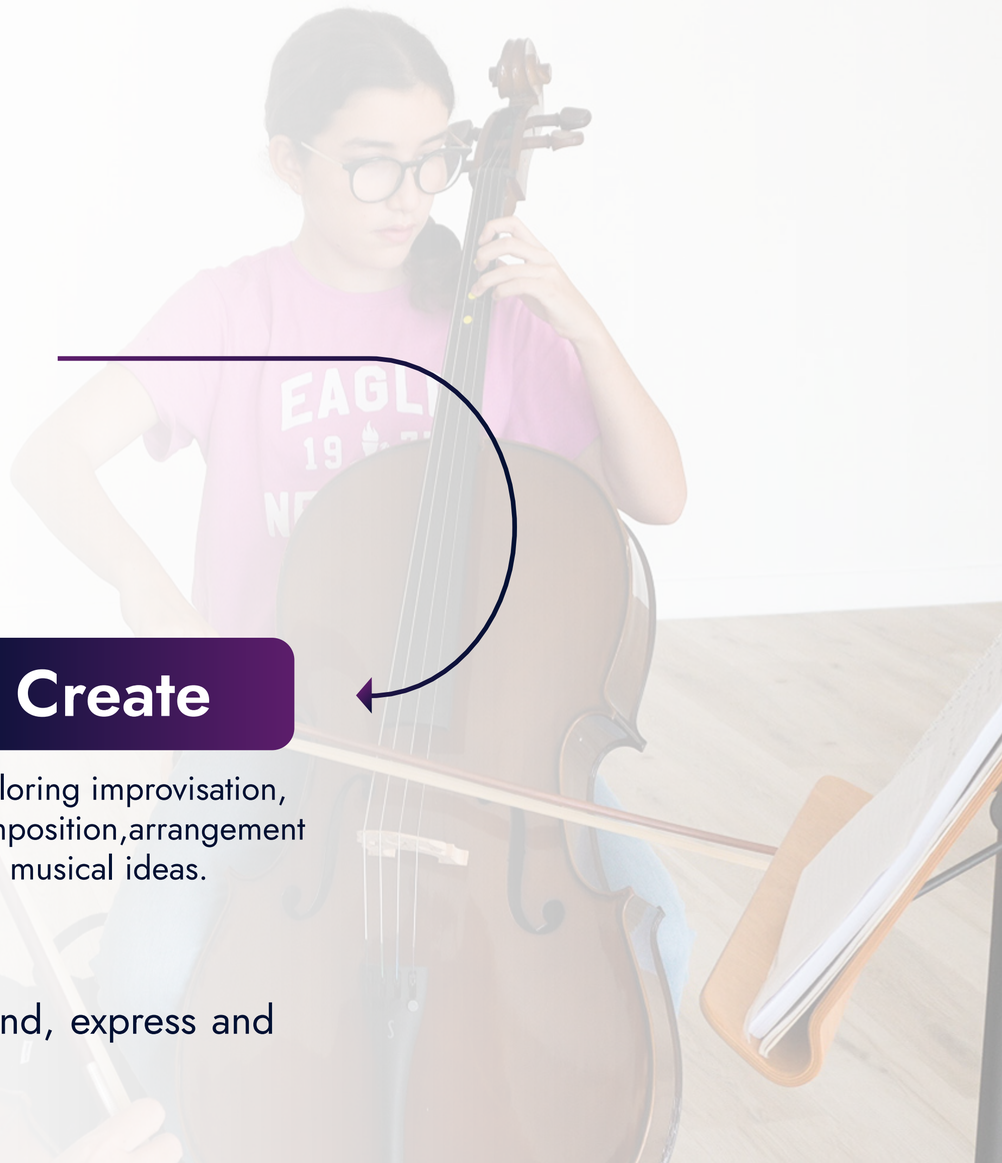
Developing confidence in reading and interpreting musical scores.

Create ← **Perform** ← **Think Independently**

Exploring improvisation, composition,arrangement and musical ideas.

Connecting what they learn in lessons to a wider range of musical styles and contexts.

Developing the ability to listen, analyse, make musical decisions and apply their knowledge independently.



The goal is to create musicians who don't simply play an instrument, but understand, express and create music with confidence.

Music Production

Imagine

Compose

Developing original musical ideas through melody, harmony, rhythm and structure.

Record

Learning to capture vocals and instruments with confidence and clarity.

Produce

Exploring DAWs, MIDI, effects, sampling and mixing to shape a unique sound.

Share

Bringing ideas together into finished tracks and learning how to present and share them.



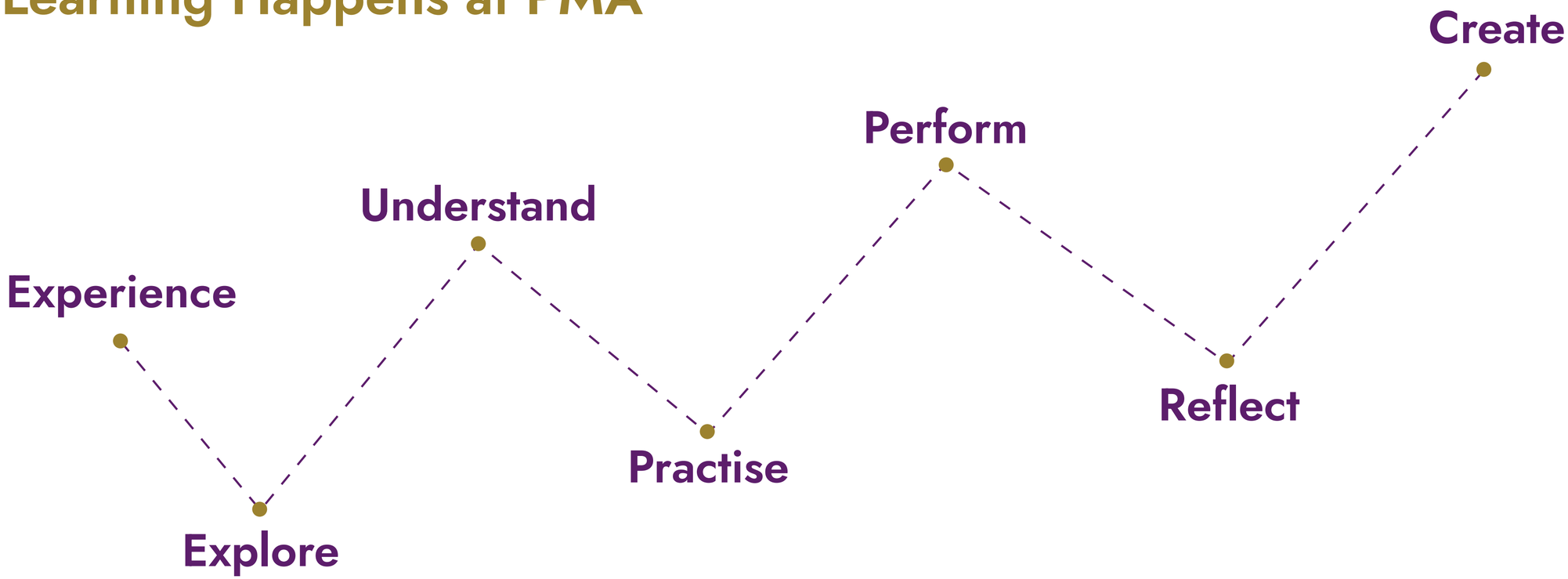
DJ Academy

Music Selection → **Mixing** → **Performance** → **Professional Practice** → **Live Performance**



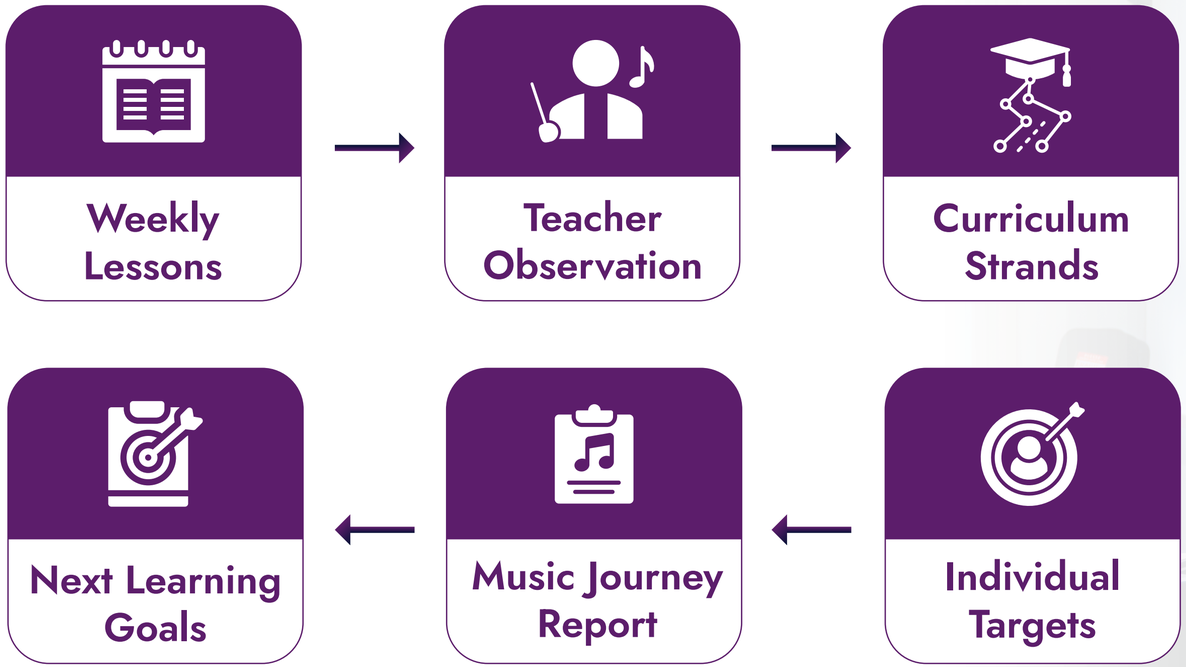
Students develop the technical skills and musical understanding to select, mix and perform music with confidence. The programme combines creative expression, professional practice and audience awareness. Through live performance, students learn to read the room, engage audiences and deliver confident DJ sets.

How Learning Happens at PMA



Every lesson follows a structured learning cycle that encourages students to experience music, develop understanding, apply their learning and reflect on their progress. This approach builds confidence, curiosity and independent learning habits over time.

Assessment & Progress





Performance Opportunities



Studio Classes



School Performances



Concerts



Festivals & Community Events



Ensembles



Competitions

Performance provides students with opportunities to build confidence and express themselves through music.

It develops communication skills, stage presence, and the ability to connect with an audience. Regular performance helps students manage nerves and become comfortable in front of others. Students learn to embrace mistakes, take creative risks, and celebrate their progress.

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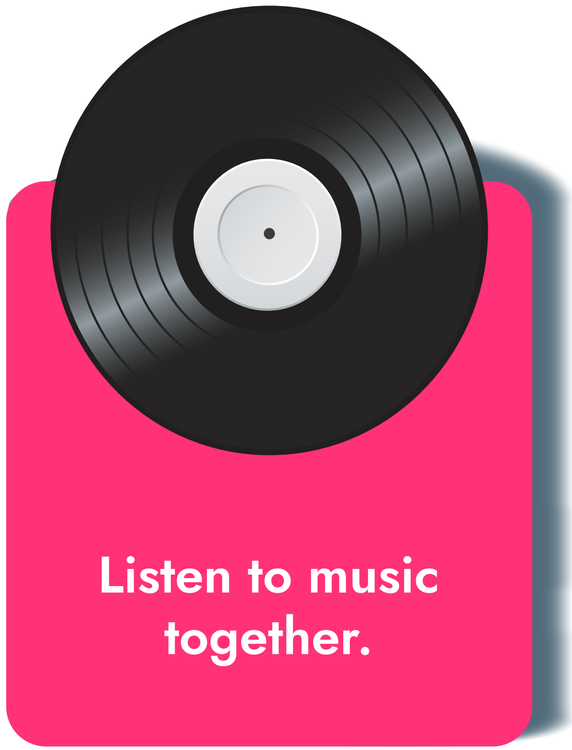
Supporting Your Child at Home



Encourage regular, enjoyable practice.



Celebrate progress, not perfection.



Listen to music together.



Stay connected with your teacher.

Frequently Asked Questions

How are students assessed?

At PMA, assessment is an ongoing part of learning rather than a single examination or test. Teachers continuously observe each student's development across the curriculum, providing personalised feedback and setting achievable learning goals.

Progress is monitored through our curriculum strands, lesson observations, performance opportunities and Music Journey Reports, allowing parents to see not only what their child has achieved, but also how they are growing as a musician.

Our assessment approach celebrates progress, encourages reflection and supports every student's next stage of learning.

How long does each PMA Level take?

Every student progresses at their own pace. Rather than following a fixed timeline, students move to the next PMA Level when they demonstrate secure understanding, practical skills and musical confidence appropriate to that stage.

Factors such as age, previous musical experience, practice habits, lesson frequency and individual learning styles all influence progression.

Our priority is to build strong foundations before introducing new challenges, ensuring students develop with confidence rather than rushing through levels.

Are examinations compulsory?

No.
While the PMA Curriculum is informed by internationally recognised examination standards such as ABRSM, Trinity and RSL, our curriculum is not built around examinations alone.

Examinations are one possible milestone within a much broader musical journey. Many students choose to take examinations, while others focus on performance, creativity, ensemble playing or personal musical development.

Teachers work closely with each family to recommend the pathway that best supports the student's goals and interests.

How can I support my child's musical learning at home?

Parents play an important role in every child's musical journey.

You can support your child by:

- Encouraging regular, enjoyable practice rather than long or infrequent sessions.
- Celebrating effort, curiosity and progress, not just perfect performances.
- Listening to music together and showing interest in what your child is learning.
- Creating a positive practice routine in a quiet and consistent environment.
- Communicating openly with your child's teacher and celebrating milestones together.

Our goal is to help students develop confidence, independence and a lifelong enjoyment of music, both inside and outside the lesson.

What if my child progresses at a different pace?

Every musical journey is unique.

Children learn in different ways and at different rates, and meaningful progress is not always measured by how quickly they complete a level. Some students develop technical skills rapidly, while others excel in creativity, listening, musical expression or confidence.

The PMA Curriculum is designed to be flexible, allowing teachers to personalise learning according to each student's strengths, interests and needs.

Rather than comparing students with one another, we celebrate individual growth and encourage every learner to become the best musician they can be.

Will my child have opportunities to perform?

Yes.

Performance is an important part of musical development and is carefully introduced throughout the PMA journey.

Students are encouraged to share their music in a supportive environment through studio performances, school concerts, festivals, ensembles, workshops and other academy events.

These experiences help students develop confidence, communication skills, resilience and the joy of making music with others.

Why does PMA include Musicianship as part of the curriculum?

Learning an instrument is only one part of becoming a complete musician.

Our Musicianship curriculum develops listening, music reading, rhythm, creativity, aural skills and musical understanding, helping students make meaningful connections between what they hear, read, perform and create.

This deeper understanding supports faster musical development and greater confidence across all areas of learning.

What makes the PMA Curriculum different?

The PMA Curriculum has been developed using internationally recognised examination standards, conservatoire teaching practices and contemporary educational research, while remaining uniquely designed around PMA's educational philosophy.

Rather than focusing solely on technical achievement or examination success, our curriculum develops the whole musician through six interconnected learning strands, progressive PMA Levels and a balanced approach to technique, creativity, performance, musical understanding and independent learning.

Our aim is not simply to teach students how to play music, but to help them become confident, creative and independent musicians who will continue to enjoy music throughout their lives.

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The PMA Graduate



Technically Fluent

Demonstrates confident and proficient musical technique.



Musically Literate

Understands and applies music theory, notation, and musical concepts.



Collaborative Musician

Listens, communicates, and works effectively with other musicians.



Reflective Learner

Evaluates progress, responds to feedback, and continually seeks improvement.



Independent Musician

Takes ownership of learning and develops the skills to practise, prepare, and perform independently.


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