The award-winning, modern-day resource for primary music
Foreword from Madeleine Casson
Education Director, Charanga

I am extremely proud to introduce you to the Charanga Musical School platform. Musical School is the culmination of many years of work by a unique, dedicated team of education, technical and enabling experts who all share a passion for music. The online platform is transforming music across our schools.
This brochure gives a comprehensive overview of the extensive and unrivalled range of resources which form Musical School. However, it is only when you see and hear children captivated and fully engrossed in their music-making, that you can really appreciate the magical impact this programme has on their learning. Please explore Musical School with your own class to see for yourself.
The award-winning, modern-day resource for primary music —
customisable, easy-to-use and great value

- Complete scheme to teach the national curriculum for music
- A growing library of songs, topics, instrument courses and creative apps
- Support for assessment, SEND and personalised teaching and learning
- A comprehensive CPD & Training programme for teachers

Over 96% of teachers say it’s had a positive impact on the quality of their teaching and pupil attainment.

Used by 54% of English primary schools and recommended by over 100 music hubs.

Reinforces continuous, genuine music-making as desired by Ofsted and other regulatory bodies.

Suitable for specialists and non-specialists.

Staff feel more confident in delivering the curriculum. Music is taught regularly and teachers are enthusiastic in their teaching.

Anna Windover, Biggin Hill Primary School, Charles Darwin Academy Trust

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Working in partnership with teachers

The latest technology, solid pedagogy, great music and brilliant resources
Just a short walk from Brighton Palace Pier, you’ll find Charanga’s team of talented, passionate and creative musicians, technologists, music teachers and web developers hard at work.

We want teaching and learning music in schools to be fun, relevant and inspiring; central to each child’s academic, social and emotional development.

We want classrooms to be buzzing with young people who love music and teachers who love teaching it.

And we know that by working in partnership with teachers and combining the latest technology, solid pedagogy, great music and brilliant resources, we can really help to make this happen for lots of schools.

CPD & Training

Equipping teachers to teach music
At Charanga we are totally committed to ensuring teachers feel as equipped and confident as possible to teach music brilliantly – so much so that our expert team has successfully trained over 25,000 teachers in modern, inclusive music-teaching practice.

CPD & Training Section
To complement the superb resources within Musical School, a dedicated CPD and Training section, complete with videos, articles and more, will be added to our platform.

CPD & Training events
We organise over 600 free events every year – most commonly as twilight sessions to make them as accessible as possible. Because every student, teacher and school is unique, we offer an extensive range of introductory workshops to more advanced overview sessions, specific themed workshops and SEND-focused events.

National and International Conferences
In partnership with Music Education Hubs and national and worldwide organisations we attend a number of conferences.

Resources
The interactive nature of our materials provides a great deal of in-built modelling and support.

Documentation
Everything you need is provided including planning, teaching and assessment documents.

In-school events
- In-school CPD & Training events: perfect for your whole-school staff
- In-school SEND Anyone Can Play training from Music Unlimited
- In-school SEND CREATE training from Transformance Music

For more information about any of the training we offer, please contact our Education Director, Madeleine Casson at madeleinecasson@charanga.com
Teacher Survey

A survey of nearly 1,000 specialist and non-specialist teachers using the Musical School programme

The positive evidence is overwhelming. Two independent masters’ theses show that schools using the Charanga Musical School programme have experienced a significant improvement in music teaching and musical achievement.

Our close links with schools through Charanga’s partnerships with over 100 music hubs and through the 600 plus Musical School training sessions we run each year, we get a great insight into how effectively the programme is working for teachers.

This year, almost 1,000 music teachers shared their experiences of using Musical School resources via an online survey. 96% reported improvements in the quality of their teaching and pupil attainment. It’s given staff – and non-specialists particularly – the confidence, professional knowledge and tools to deliver exciting and progressive music lessons.

Key: specialist non-specialist

Is Musical School widely used?

YES - Over 10,000 schools and 35,000 teachers in 62 countries use our award-winning platform to help them teach music – that’s over over 2 million children enjoying Charanga-supported music lessons every week. 54% of all English primary schools have adopted the programme, with more working with us every month.

What about Ofsted?

While Musical School is totally in line with Ofsted guidance and it does a massive amount to support your teaching, Ofsted inspection is always about the teaching so we do like to highlight our little sign (right).

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Scheme

A step-by-step approach to teaching music in your school
Charanga’s Musical School Scheme provides teachers with week-by-week lessons for each year group in the school, from ages 5–11.

Used by 35,000 specialist and non-specialist teachers globally, it provides lesson plans, assessment, clear progression and exciting whiteboard resources for every lesson.

The Scheme supports all the requirements of the national curriculum in England and is absolutely in line with published Ofsted guidance.

Musical School Learning
The learning within this Scheme is based on:

- Listening and Appraising
- Musical Activities — creating and exploring
- Singing, Playing Instruments andPerforming

Everything is clearly and simply explained and the planning support is extensive.

Interactive Teaching Resources
Because the on-screen resources are so visual, supportive and everything is at your fingertips, each lesson is full of music and the children enjoy every moment.

Musical School Assessment
We’ve looked at all the great thinking that has been done on assessment and created an easy-to-use framework that’s perfectly suited for both music specialists and non-musicians.

In essence, there are three aspects to the assessment:

- Aged guidance with the expected musical learning against which to assess
- One-page lesson plans with the facility for you to formatively (continuously) assess
- A digital evidence storage facility to help you build a musical profile for classes and individuals
Updates to the Musical School Scheme

We constantly seek to improve what we do and respond to the feedback we receive from teachers.

Our Scheme is regularly refreshed to offer our users a greater variety of progressive resources to challenge children of all ages and abilities. They include new Listening, Appraising and Musical Activities and there’s no need to enable Flash in your browser when accessing them.

New units are published throughout the year to inspire and to keep children engaged. They will include Music and Identity, the culmination of our partnership with the Brighter Sound music charity. This unit embraces many of the challenges facing young people today and focuses on the roles and achievements of women in the music industry.

Visit our website, sign up to our newsletter or follow us on social media to be the first to hear about all of the latest additions to the Scheme.

"Charanga is absolutely fantastic. I use the rhythm grids as a starter activity in all my classes. The pupils’ understanding of rhythm and the accuracy with which they perform has really improved.

I use the recorder course with my clubs and they love all the songs. I’m also teaching the Hip Hop topic with my Y6s and it’s going really well!"

Yvette Cooper, Music Teacher

What teachers say

Musical School has given my staff the confidence and the resources to deliver exciting music lessons. The sessions are quick and easy to organise and can successfully be taught by non-music specialists. The children clearly enjoy the dynamic, fun and stimulating sessions and our teachers are learning valuable new skills.

Julie Brown, Headteacher

Good to know

The Scheme guarantees you’re teaching the national curriculum for music in full.

Anyone can teach with this Scheme because the on-screen resources give you so much support.

“High quality”, “fun to teach” and “the children love it” are the things teachers say most about this Charanga Scheme.

Key facts

The Scheme has lesson plans, assessment and stunning resources for every lesson across the whole school.

A simple low-cost annual fee for your school includes unlimited access for every teacher.

Use online OR download with no limits and no extra payments.

For those occasions when you need the backing tracks for performances, there’s also a free Scheme Songs app with everything you’ll need.

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Freestyle

A vast, growing library of music resources
While for many teachers the Scheme may be the part of Charanga Musical School they use the most, others also like the more flexible Freestyle approach provided by the Musical School resource library.

From this library you can choose from a range of music resources which you might want to mix in with your own. You can also use the library to find and save resources linked to many other areas of music-making in your school.

Take a look inside the Freestyle library

Topics
The topics mostly contain collections of songs or related resources linked to popular primary themes such as Ancient Egypt, Minibeasts and Healthy Living. As they are intended to be used flexibly to support your teaching in a range of contexts, there are no lesson plans. The topics have been divided by age range, but many can be used across the primary sector.

Units
The stand-alone units within Freestyle can be combined or added to other materials to form a unique music plan for your school. They all offer a flexible pathway containing every resource from the unit in a single lesson, giving you complete flexibility in your teaching. Many of the units, which cover a wide range of musical genres, centre around a central song – some well-known and some specially commissioned for young voices.

Productions
Our full school musical productions can be used to celebrate key points in the school year, such as summer or winter time, or festivals like Harvest, Diwali and Christmas. Each production provides everything you need including tracks for learning the songs, backing tracks for the performance, scripts, scores and director guides. The songs can be used in schools as often as you like, but in most cases it will be necessary to take out a Public Performance Licence for public shows. Visit the production home page for full details and guidance.

Listening Centres and Courses
The Listening Centre offers a colourful collection of music covering a range of periods, styles and genres. Listen to well over 150 musical works by style, genre or era; access a guided Classical music library complete with fast facts and historical context; and a monthly Listening Calendar, linking music to specific events throughout the year. A range of courses will also enrich, enhance and extend your curriculum delivery. A new Musical Styles section categorised by style will feature Jazz, Hip Hop and African drumming courses.
Collaborations
The BBC-led Ten Pieces initiative for primary schools focuses on Classical music and creativity, while Nicola Benedetti’s “With Nicky” video series provides information, guidance and support for young musicians. Friday Afternoons features new works from an eclectic group of composers, from Classical and Folk to Jazz and Indian music. There’s also the chance to learn and perform Carnival Suite, a specially-commissioned orchestral piece by John K Miles.

Creative Apps

Rhythm Grids
The Rhythm Grids are great for introducing simple and compound 2, 3 and 4-beat time signatures. Children love the rotation feature.

Music Explorer
An exciting app supporting lots of different musical activities, including pulse games, listening skills, improvising, composing and use of notation.

Percussion Writer
A great way to play along with excerpts from famous works or create your own simple classroom percussion pieces.

Musical Toolkit
Supports the learning and understanding of generic musical ideas and terminology such as pulse and rhythm, notations and historical context.

NEW In the Freestyle library this year
With a powerful search tool in place, you can access a growing library of fantastic materials: more instrumental resources, more productions, new topics and courses.

Recent releases include Caroline Hoile’s superb musicals Nice Weather For Ducks! and The King Of All Polar Bears, and Sarah Baker’s popular Tuning The Tables, which helps children to learn their times tables.

What teachers say
We have been using Charanga for almost 2 years now and have found it a great resource for introducing our Primary school children to a range of musical disciplines. Its lesson plans are comprehensive, easy to follow and most important of all … fun. In addition, this is all supported by a great technical support team.

Phil Morgan, Primary Teacher

Good to know
The Freestyle library is regularly updated with new resources, many based on teachers’ requests.

You can mix and match resources by creating your own personal lessons and courses.

Most common sentiment about the library: “It’s what I’ve always wanted – lots of great resources in one place that I can customise for my own needs.”

Key fact
Access to everything you see here, along with the Scheme, is included in the simple, low-cost annual fee for your school.

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Charanga Sing

A fantastic teaching resource that encourages everyone to sing more!
Extensive research has shown the undeniably positive impact that singing has on emotional, physical and mental well-being. This is the reason why singing features so highly in music curricula and on educational agendas – as well as simply being a great thing to do!

Charanga Sing contains a growing bank of over 500 songs presented in a way that is intuitive to use whether by vocal specialists, confident singers or those just keen to encourage more singing every day.

There are songs for all occasions, all ages and all groupings from soloists to massed choirs. The repertoire covers a wide range of styles, cultures and purposes, with each one carefully picked to be included in the song bank.

Finding Songs
Finding the right song is easy. Use the categories such as age range or genre to highlight suitable material or the search engine to look for specific words, perhaps linking to work that you are doing in other areas of the curriculum.

A Wealth of Information
There is a wealth of information for each song, helping you to decide which one will work best. This information is clearly presented with a brief overview of the song appearing in the list view, such as age suitability, difficulty and genre, with further details listed under Song Info.

Opening the Song Info reveals teaching ideas, where else in the programme the song is found, musical guidance such as range, key and tempo, and much, much more.

Alongside the Song Info there are also quick links for listen, launch and star.

Quick Access to Your Favourite Songs
Whilst you are looking through the songs you can ‘star’ songs which will be useful for your teaching on a regular basis, or for specific projects. These will be added to your ‘My Resources’ allowing easy access whenever they are needed.

The Ants Came Marching
With each verse the number of ants increases from one up to ten.
Age Suitability: 3, 5, 7, 9 | General Difficulty: basic
Song Genre: cumulative, march
Topics/Themes:

- Listen
- Launch
- Song info
- Star
Singing Courses

**Musitrax Sing 1 & 2**
A child-centred approach to music-teaching for Early Years and Key Stage 1 based on Kodály principles, using singing and singing games, with fun and learning through play at its heart.

**For Younger Children**
A bank of nursery rhymes, action songs, including many old favourites, and specially-written songs which are perfect for little voices.

**Vocal Coach**
A vocal health section all about taking care of the voice with fantastic body and vocal warm-ups, exercises and popular tongue twisters.

**For Older Children**
A wide range of unison and 2 or more part songs. Some are specially composed or traditional, many are new and very well-known from popular shows, musicals and pop artists – all ideal for encouraging every one of your pupils to sing.

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**What teachers say**

A fantastic, easy to use singing resource for all primary ages, covering a wide range of musical styles. There are great opportunities for extension activities for your most able groups of singers.

Analie Hart, Music Coordinator, Heron Primary School, Gloucestershire

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**Key fact**

There is no limit to the number of songs you can use online and no limit on downloads. Access to everything you see here, along with the Scheme and Freestyle library, is included in the simple, low-cost annual fee for your school.

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**Good to know**

The Charanga Sing’s interactive resources are great for teachers who feel less comfortable with leading singing. They’re a great way to build up confidence.

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**Song Collections**

There are lots of 2 or more part songs within the Song Collections which are ideal for older children and choirs. Many of these collections contain well-loved materials which will prove popular with everyone.

- All Songs A-Z
- Units of Work
- Well-known Charanga Unit Songs
- Charanga Songs
- 2-Part Well-known Songs
- 2-Part Film & Theatre Songs
- Songs from Friday Afternoons
- 3-5 Part Songs of Today – Sing Out

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Instruments

Resources for popular classroom instruments

Playing instruments is an important part of music-making. This section is full of resources for popular classroom instruments, such as recorders and guitars. All are designed to extend learning and can be used as part of the music curriculum or as enrichment activities. Many have been developed in collaboration with leading authors and publishers.

The lovely Heather Ward’s Blown Away Recorder Books 1 and 2 use our latest technology and are suitable for children throughout the primary phase.

Two recorder books, Guinea Pig Gig and Fairground Fiesta, also accompany Heather Ward’s popular Blown Away series.

Also for recorders is the ever-popular Jane Sebba’s Recorder Course with its extra repertoire, perfect for the younger beginner.

Kay Tucker’s progressive Stringbabies series caters for beginner cello and violin players, helping them to compose their own melodies; develop their singing, rhythmic and aural skills; and sight-read.

Fiddle Time is the UK’s most popular violin teaching method. Fiddle Time authors Kathy and David Blackwell have selected 30 pieces that are suited to whole-class violin teaching and its need for flexible learning progression.

The Beginner Guitarist has brilliant video tutorials and an added feature allowing you to slow the video without changing the pitch. This course is ideal for small groups and after-school clubs.

The Ukulele Course is aimed at older primary-aged children and contains interactive resources and detailed lesson plans. Teachers who are not familiar with the ukulele may wish to follow the course themselves first.

The Djembe Course is ideal for older pupils, but it can be adapted for younger children. Pupils are encouraged to play accurately and to enjoy being creative. There are simple plans for 12 lessons.

The two Glockenspiel Stages introduce the language of music in a practical way. The children have the opportunity to explore and develop their playing skills. You can decide whether to follow the six steps in each stage or to use the Flexible Pathway and work at your own pace.

“What teachers say

We had great fun using the Ukulele Course this morning. The TAs are really enjoying using the resources and learning alongside the children too!

Dorothy Driscoll, Music Teacher, St Martins, Kent

“Key fact

Where there are printable versions you can print as many scores as you need to encourage your pupils to practise between lessons. Alternatively you can share the interactive pieces using Yumu.

“Good to know

As part of your school licence all teachers and support staff including any part-time or visiting teachers can have their own login. This will enable team teaching and a joined-up approach to music-making in your school.

Dorothy Driscoll, Music Teacher, St Martins, Kent
SEND in Musical School

Supporting inclusive practice

The SEND section in Musical School is dedicated to supporting teachers working with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. However, whilst the SEND section is a discrete area, many teachers use it alongside the main Musical School platform, allowing them to find the most appropriate resources for each learner.

The SEND section has three areas:

SEND Scheme – Anyone Can Play

Our SEND Scheme of ready-made lessons is called ‘Anyone Can Play’ and was devised by the Music Unlimited team, leveraging its 30 years of experience in special school settings.

This Scheme is suitable for youngsters at any point on the learning difficulty spectrum and is ideal for use by the non-specialist teacher. Although there are whiteboard resources, the Scheme works equally well without them.

SEND Freestyle

The SEND Freestyle library section brings together bespoke versions of the most popular Charanga resources from the Musical School platform. These lighter versions can provide a seamless pathway into the main Freestyle section if appropriate.

SEND CREATE

The award-winning SEND CREATE uses iPads to inspire and nurture school-aged composers, improvisers and performers. Like the SEND Scheme, SEND CREATE has been devised by specialists in this field – in this case, Transformance Music.

CREATE offers four unique projects which are suitable for all learners:

- Make a Music Video
- Music to Dance to
- Sensory India!
- Improvise and Groove

The students learn about turn taking, anticipation, working with others, respect and appreciation of others, making choices and building self esteem.

Our music sessions are the only lesson during the week where staff and students applaud themselves at the end!

Julie Sale, Class Teacher, Lexden Springs School, Essex

Access to everything you see in the SEND section is open to all teachers, along with the Scheme, Freestyle, Sing and Instrumental areas, and is included in the simple low-cost annual fee for your school.

Good to know

The superb array of resources available means that the musical ambitions of every learner can be realised.

To try out the Musical School platform, simply register for a free 30-day trial. We don’t take any payment details and there’s no obligation to subscribe afterwards. Go to the website address on the back page to sign up now.
**Yumu for Students**

**A safe online learning space for students**

Within Musical School, Yumu is a safe online space especially for students to use.

It comes complete with ready-made packages such as Music World with its avatars, musical games, quizzes and beginner instrumental courses for all the students in your school.

Additionally, you can give your students access to any materials you are using in school. This might be preparation for a new topic, further learning of a recorder or ukulele piece, or even the chance to learn the songs for a production.

It’s very quick and easy to set up whole classes with usernames and passwords (in a similar way to MyMaths and Mathletics).

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**What students say**

*Me and my friend like your website a lot! I am practising my clarinet and she is practising her flute.*

Thank you from K and A.
Year 4 students, Primary School

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**Key facts**

Over 200,000 students have used Music World since we introduced it a couple of years ago.

Like everything else in Musical School, access for every student is included in the simple, low-cost annual fee for your school.

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**Good to know**

Access to an individual login for every student in your school is included in the simple, low-cost annual fee for your school.

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**My Workspace**

My Workspace is personal to you and allows you to access resources, create and edit lessons and share them with your pupils. For this reason each teacher is able to have their own login.

**My Pupil Groups**

It’s very quick and easy to set up whole classes with usernames and passwords for Yumu to enable pupils to access ready-made packages and any lessons you have shared. You can also track pupils’ usage and progress.

**My Resources**

My Resources is a personal library of resources to use in your teaching, so whenever you see a resource you like you can add it by ‘starring’ the resource. As well as the thousands of musical resources available in this platform, you can also easily upload your own to this area.

**My Lessons**

Each lesson is a collection, or playlist, of resources. There are two ways to build a lesson:

1. **Start with a ready-made lesson and add or remove resources**
2. **Create a new lesson by using the search facility to find resources and add these along with anything you already have in My Resources**

This allows you to create your own lessons which can be used in your teaching or shared with your pupils through Yumu. Lessons can also be downloaded for use offline.
About Charanga

Just a short walk from Brighton Palace Pier, you’ll find Charanga’s team of talented, passionate and creative musicians, technologists, music teachers and developers hard at work.

We want teaching and learning music in schools to be fun, relevant and inspiring; central to each child’s academic, social and emotional development.

What does Charanga mean? It’s a small musical band often linked to Cuban music. We thought it was a good name for a music education company (and we’re all a bit partial to the Latin music vibe).
www.charanga.com/musical-school-trial

Sign up now for a no-obligation, 30-day free trial for your school

We don’t ask for any payment details. At the end of the trial, you can choose to order Musical School if you wish, or you can simply allow the trial to expire.

How much does it cost?

Musical School for primaries won’t cost more than £295 per annum—it's often less. It differs around the country based on how much it's supported by your local music hub, authority or MAT and also the size of school.

Teachers who use it though, consistently tell us the cost is low and it’s great value.

20 YEARS OF AWARD-WINNING MUSIC EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

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