

2-Week Bowmansgreen Spring Term Project: Minimalism

Week 1

Learning Objective:

- I understand the style of minimalism and know an important piece of music from this genre.
- I can perform a piece of minimalism music using body percussion.

Introduction:

- Watch 'In C' Video. Flick through to different parts after a minute or so. You don't need to watch the whole thing at once. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_Hg9isDmqo
- What do you think minimalism means? Try and break up the word to find the word 'minimal' (a small amount). Use a dictionary or the internet to find some definitions or examples of art or music.
- Minimalism music uses small motifs or bits of music/pieces of music to build up to a bigger piece.
- 'In C' is by Terry Riley. He created this music by writing small pieces of music for each performer to play. Each performer plays the same music, but they can play each 'motif' however many times that they like. The motifs shift slightly away from each other creating tension in the music but also allows for some beautiful consequences to occur from the performance. Performances of this piece can last longer than an hour! This video lasts around 30 minutes.

Steps to success:

- Learn each of the three fragments (see 'fragments pdf') one at a time. The words prompt which part of the body to perform. For example, 'two feet clap' indicates two stamps and one clap.
- Perform each pattern through four times to start with. Then, choose a different number of times to play each pattern and perform to someone else allowing them to figure out how many times they have performed each of the patterns.
- Perform your fragments however long you decide (maximum of 8 times each pattern) with someone else, starting at the same time. Make sure you're doing it together.
- Once you are confident, try to perform along with the 'In C' video (staying in time with the drummer in the video)!

Plenary:

- How do you feel when performing minimalism music?
- How does a piece of minimalism work?
- Did you find it tricky or easy performing along with the music? Did it help you keep going?

Week 2

Learning Objective:

- I can compose a piece of minimalism music and perform with others.

Introduction:

- Perform through the 'In C' body percussion fragments from last week.

Steps to success:

- Using your own instrument or with your own body percussion techniques, create your own prompts, up to 8 in total. They can be longer or shorter than the others but don't make them too long or too complicated. You will need to play them a number of times!
- For instruments, use notes from the C scale, CDEFGABC. You could even play little bits of pieces that you know already! There are no wrong answers.
- For body percussionists, you might want to try and create your own instrument using recyclable materials so you can develop a more interesting piece? If you want to stick with the body, think of some interesting ways of using your body to make sounds and make little patterns using words that represent each sound. For example, 'knee knee clap shoulder'. The syllables of the words help create the rhythm of the music.
- Practice your music along with the 'In C recording'. Remember to play each of your fragments however many times you like and change the number of times each time you play so that the performance is different each time.

Plenary:

- How could you develop your composition?