

Welcome to **Home Made Music**: the online music making sessions you can share at home with your children during and after lockdown. Based on activities teachers and pupils have been exploring in primary schools with us, we hope they will inspire and entertain the whole family.

There will be a new one online each week.

It's all about having fun with sounds and music, tuning the ears of children and parents to music beyond the confines of harmony, hit tunes and popular classics. It's not about acquiring 'musical chops', reading music or practising scales, though that's certainly wonderful too!

These sessions embrace free music, found sounds and music making for non-musicians and musicians. They are all about people discovering and rediscovering their musicality, tapping into the music that's inside them and that's all around us. So just have fun with these sessions at home with the family and don't worry about how much or how little experience you've had with music making....

Oxford  
Contemporary  
Music



There are no mistakes, only sounds! Let's make some.

## HOME MADE MUSIC #2

### Eska's Non-Stop Whatever Machine

#### PREPARATION

**People:** You probably need a minimum of 4 people of all ages for this one.

**Space:** You'll need as much space as you can find. Clear a space in the living room or, if you can, try it outdoors!

**Sound making objects:** each person will eventually need to make sounds, so make sure that you have a collection of sound making things. They might be instruments that you have at home, or things that you find around the house that make good noises: pots and pans, scrapers and graters, tongs which go ting, gongs and cymbals using saucepan lids. Once you're collected them from round the home, put these to one side where they can be picked up and used when needed.

This session is all about [Eska's Non-Stop Whatever Machine](#).

That's because it's based on an idea that Eska brought along to one of our music ideas workshops. If you haven't heard her music, check it out. She's a wonderful singer/songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and Mercury award nominee.

And now let's find out what a Whatever machine might be.

#### Let's begin:

Seat everyone in a circle on the floor

Stand in the middle of the circle and explain that together you are all going to make a 'whatever machine' and that you are going to be the first part of the machine. Then make a repeated movement and a sound like a machine. Keep it simple. It might just be stretching your arm out and back while you make a mechanical noise. Then stop and ask one of the seated people to come

and join you as a different part of the machine with a different mechanical movement and noise. This new part of the machine should stand close by you, so it relates in some way to your part. Keep the sounds and the movements going while you get everybody up on their feet being part of the machine, one at a time, on whichever end of the chain that is forming. You'll find that a rhythmic, noisy 'machine' is soon created by the group built on each person's repeated sound and movement.

When everybody has joined in and the machine has been running for a while, call out STOP. And then all sit back in the circle and start the game again...only this time choose someone else to be the first part of the machine. Now you are going to be the controller of the machine and you have a pretend lever to start and stop the machine and make it go faster or slower. If you have enough space maybe there's a button you press to make the whole machine move around the space, once the machine is assembled.

After that, each time you assemble a new machine, everyone can take a turn at being the controller of a different machine or being the first part of the new machine. As the session goes on, you might like to decide what kind of machine you're going to be ...what does it do? (e.g. digging, teaching, spaceship, train, light house, radio station, YouTube video or even an adding machine if you want to throw in some number work too!!)

### **MUSIC MACHINE:**

Then when you think you have all made enough of these machines, that's a good time to make a MUSIC MACHINE with repetitive sounds.

Each person should collect a sound maker or instrument and sit in the circle. Go and stand in the middle of the circle with your sound maker and start making a simple repetitive sound and movement. Then build a music machine in the same way, with each person standing up and joining you with a repeated sound and movement. Let it play a while and hear what happens. Try it again after you've all exchanged sound makers with someone else starting it off. If you add a controller, this time they can make the song louder or quieter, faster or slower.

### Try it as a **SONG MACHINE:**

Starting one at a time, each person sings one line of any song they please on repeat with movement, so that when the machine is running, everyone is singing different lines of different songs together. You could also try another variation where you each sing a different line of the same song so that you'll hear all the lines of the song simultaneously sung by your song machine.

And that's **Eska's WHATEVER MACHINE**, this week's **Home Made Music** session from **Oxford Contemporary Music**.

We hope you all had a good time and made some fantastic sounds together.