

Welcome back 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's a new one online each week and you can revisit them whenever you want.

Oxford
Contemporary
Music



These sessions embrace free music, found sounds and music making for non-musicians and musicians. They're all about having fun with sounds and music, about people discovering or 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. There are no mistakes, just a whole world of sound to explore.

And today.... Let's start in the kitchen!

HOME MADE MUSIC #3

The Kitchen Symphony

1. LISTENING TO THE SPACE

What can you hear in the kitchen?

Ask everybody to go into the kitchen, no more than two at a time, to explore the space very quietly, listening to and locating the sounds that are already there... **ticking clocks** or **taps dripping**...that kind of thing. When everyone has made their visit, come back together, and get everyone to report on the sounds they heard while they were in the kitchen and also discuss what sounds you might hear if kitchen machines were running and what sounds you could make in the kitchen with all the things that are in there, like **spoons** and **chairs**, **brushes** and **pots**.

2. THE NOISY GADGET

Now it's time to gather in the kitchen. You've all checked out the kitchen for sounds, it should be easy to locate a gadget in there that might make a good droning sound ...for example a **washing machine** or a **food mixer**, a **noisy fridge** or an **extractor fan**. Gather around the gadget and turn it on, if necessary. Try humming over the droning noise altogether, any notes you please. Then, while everyone else continues to **hum**, ask them one at a time to start to sing the **name** of an object they can see in the kitchen. You can be the conductor and can start, stop and change the individual singers. Other people in the group can also take turns conducting.

You can also turn off the gadget that's making the droning sound and move to another...or even have more than one droning machine making sound. But always start the new piece in the same way: tuning into the new droning noise or noises with your hums.

3. WHAT'S IN THE FRIDGE?

Gather around the fridge and open the door. On each shelf you can see a row of contrasting products. So let's say we're looking at the inside of the door and from those products in the door,

one child chooses a bottle of **milk**, another child chooses the **orange juice**, another chooses the **jar of mustard** and maybe you choose the **strawberry smoothie**. After you've all chosen products you can see in the door, get each child to make a special sound for the product they have chosen. If they have any instruments with them in the kitchen, they could play a note or some notes for their product. Do the same for each shelf and then.... practice each shelf.

Now they can be conducted by a leader/conductor who just holds up the product or products when they want certain sounds played or, when everyone is up for it, they can point to a shelf and the group can read the products like a visual score from left to right making their sounds in all the correct places.

4. SINGING THE SPACE

This where you all sing in different areas of the space.

Which part of the room has the most **reverb** (also known as the most echoey space)? Look for the tiles and lack of soft furnishing and carpets.

Which is the **quietest** part of the room? What do you sing when you're all **under the table**? What different songs or **vocalisations** do you make in different parts of the room?

5. CHAIR PIECE

Everyone try using the chairs as instruments.

Get them to freestyle awhile then maybe try conducting the group.

6. The Grand Finale: THE KITCHEN BAND

Have an array of kitchenware (saucepans, spatulas, colanders etc.) from which you can all choose your instruments.

Then supply an underlying very simple regular rhythm. Get everyone to join in one at a time at first. If they can take over the rhythm, you can conduct... but allow lots of freestyle moments.

VARIATIONS:

You may well discover lots of better ideas for family music in your kitchen. Just go with the flow and see what happens. But you also might like to try similarly themed improvisations. Try the garden or the park or play outdoors on a sunny day making water sounds with containers and a paddling pool; or try music with art materials! Just think sonically and you'll soon get a Water Symphony, a Symphony of Many Colours or even a Christmas or Hallowe'en Symphony etc.

So that's **Home Made Music #3**. Thanks for joining in.

We would love to hear from you: Let us know what you think about the sessions. Maybe you have some funny stories about how they have been going or have got some great ideas or ways of developing the music.

Why not tweet us a video or audio recording of some of your Home Made music!!

Email us at info@ocmevents.org with the subject heading **Home Made Music** or tweet us **@OCMEVENTS #OCMHomemademusic**

Home Made Music is created and narrated by Max Reinhardt