

The Language of Performing Arts

Music

In Performing Arts our second section was music. In a group of three, we improvised rehearsed & performed a short piece, which lasted three minutes. This incorporated the five different elements of music, which are rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre and texture.

During a series of lessons, each of these elements were emphasised upon i.e. how to apply them to music to create an effective piece.

We studied the elements of music, to do this we listened to a variety of music where we identified rhythm and we were given an introduction to the Reason software.

The material essence of music lies with its melody, harmony, rhythm, and dynamics. Melody gives music soul, while rhythm blends the expression of harmony and dynamics with the tempo of the passage. All are necessary to create a recognizable pattern known as a "song."

Improvisation

Firstly through improvisation we started to experiment with the different elements. In order to do this we experimented with a wide range of instruments.

Our piece of music was based on pressure. We looked at the elements and instruments that could tell a story, which conveyed pressure and how it would set a certain mood throughout the atmosphere.

Firstly in our group we looked at how to produce rhythm and how we could incorporate the elements of music to express pressure within our three-minute piece. We devised a backing track using Reason software. This track originally consisted of a drumbeat played against our melody beat. However, new ideas were added and this created a more efficient track.

We played with instruments such as drums, electric guitar, tambourine and (wooden thing) against this track. Here melody and harmony were added to our music.

Originally, as a team we discussed ways in which we could enhance our music and make it more successful as a whole. We experimented with vocal effects using the microphone. However, we rejected this idea because we felt that it was not relevant to our production and that it did not add respond with the instruments and the musical elements.

Rehearsing

In the rehearsing stage many of the positive aspects that were produced in the improvisation stage were worked upon and they were put together to construct a music piece based on pressure.

When rehearsing I found it fairly difficult to play the (wooden thing) at the same time with the drum beat on the backing track. There was a lot of concentration involved when playing the instruments and listening to the track.

We rehearsed many times so that we could gain some constructive criticism and from this reject any ideas, which did not seem to work well.

When rehearsing as a group we worked as team to minimise errors and to bring the performance to perfection.

I realised that when playing all the instruments, an effective dialogue was created between them i.e. the instruments were responding to each other and we could sense a story being told.

Performance

Once our music piece was organized by melody, harmony, and rhythm, it was technically presentable. Although some indication of mood is expressed through the tempo at which a piece is meant to be played, without dynamics, music lacks the emotion behind the musical thought

We performed to the year 13 Performing Arts student. When performing it was very hard to play the instruments as a team yet stay calm throughout the performance.

Fortunately everything went according to plan and the audience responded positively with a very content approach.