

Using GarageBand with Bronze Arts Award and KS3 Music



Arts Award

Arts Award is a range of unique qualifications in the arts. Bronze Arts Award is a Level 1 qualification, and is open to any young person aged 11-25.

This resource is designed to show you how, through GarageBand, you can help you meet areas of the KS3 music curriculum and achieve Bronze Arts Award at the same time. It isn't a replacement for Arts Award adviser training (or using the Arts Award adviser toolkit). If you are not already an Arts Award adviser find out more about getting started and training to be an adviser here: artsaward.org.uk/gettingstarted

There are four parts to complete for Bronze Arts Award, all of which can easily link to the KS3 music curriculum.

Using GarageBand to achieve Bronze Arts Award, students need to evidence:

- ▶ getting involved in practical music production and reflect on skills they are developing

- ▶ listening to and reviewing live music
- ▶ researching musicians and/or composers
- ▶ passing on music based skills to others

A wide range of evidence formats can be used. Arts Award is proven to be both accessible to young people with SEND, as well as providing a stretch and challenge for more able students.

GarageBand

GarageBand is a great solution for music students and beginners; it is easy to learn, fun and creative. GarageBand comes in two versions and each offers unique options to benefit your pupils learning and participation in music lessons. The iOS (iPad, iPhone) version offers some great ways to play and perform from the touch screen interface while the Mac version allows more editing options for the more experienced music producer. Both versions are free downloads from the respective app stores, and both can be used to help complete Bronze Arts Award.



Did you know? Rihanna's Umbrella started from the GarageBand loop 'Vintage Funk Kit 03' beat that comes supplied with the Mac software. The story goes that producers Christopher 'Tricky' Stewart, Terius 'The-Dream' Nash and Kuk Harrell were improvising with the loop, and as they did, they added chords and vocals over the top to create the song.



Bronze Arts Award PART A: explore the arts as a participant

This part is all about taking part in the arts and developing arts skills.

Links to KS3 music curriculum

- ▶ Students could use the software to explore playing and performing confidently alone and in an ensemble, using their voice and instruments musically, fluently and with accuracy and expression.
- ▶ Students could improvise and compose, and extend and develop their musical ideas, recording how their skills develop.
- ▶ Students could identify and use the inter-related dimensions of music expressively and with increasing sophistication, including use of tonalities, different types of scales and other musical devices
- ▶ Students could use staff and other relevant notations appropriately and accurately in a range of musical styles, genres and traditions identifying and using dimensions such as tones and scales.



Did you know? On GarageBand for Mac you get free Artist Lessons featuring songs taught by the artists |who made them famous. Including Rush, Fall Out Boy, Norah Jones, John Legend and Sting!

For Bronze part A students can use GarageBand in various ways.

▶ As a musical instrument

- » **For practice** (scales, chords, rhythms). GarageBand smart instruments on iOS can be used as practice tools. Especially useful for practicing sight reading.
- » **For Learning to play songs.** GarageBand includes a complete series of Learn to Play lessons that teach the fundamentals of guitar and piano. One guitar and one piano lesson are preinstalled on the Mac, and additional lessons can be downloaded in GarageBand.
- » **As an accompaniment device.** In chord mode the guitar or keyboard smart instruments can be used to quickly lay down the chord progression bringing musical context to the practice session and increasing enjoyment of playing. Equally the drums or bass smart instrument could be used to add rhythm. Much more engaging than the metronome!

▶ For live performance

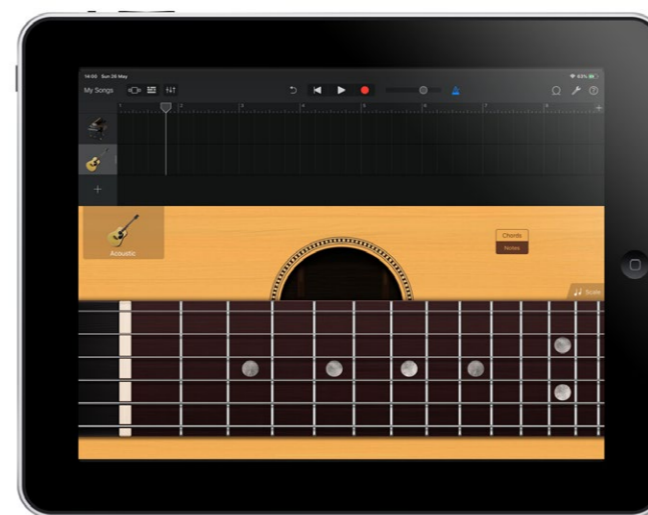
iPad orchestras are everywhere these days offering a way for musicians, non-musicians, disabled and non-disabled people to start making high quality sound together. The iOS version of GarageBand offers great sounding keyboards, guitars, bass and drums as well as instruments from China and Japan that can be played directly from the touch screen.



Tip for teachers: Scaffolding for new players is a breeze on the iPad version of Garageband. Chords can be removed via Edit chords and scales can be selected when in Notes mode from the Scale menu, eliminating wrong notes allowing beginners to concentrate on phrasing and feeling while learning scales.

▶ As a composition tool for writing melodies, chord progressions and rhythms

GarageBand has been designed with the beginner in mind but offers plenty of options to those more experienced songwriters too. Getting chords, melodies and rhythms down on this musical notepad couldn't be easier. In iOS simply choose Notes from any smart instrument to start recording or click in the arrange view and choose edit or start drawing in midi notes. On the Mac version use a midi keyboard or the Musical Typing option.



Did you know? GarageBand is also well known for its extensive library of loops which can be used for inspiration, adding to existing ideas or writing whole songs with.

▶ For arrangement

On iOS Live Loops is a fantastic addition and allows a very modern way of arranging a composition. In this mode loops appear in a grid and can be triggered independently of which section of the song they were part of. On Mac you can use the arrangement track to move, copy and delete whole sections once you have written them.

▶ For collaboration

Fall Out Boy's guitarist Joe Trohman tells us how they use GarageBand to work collaboratively.

"Patrick lays down a lot of his ideas on GarageBand - he sends me the files and then I work on my guitar parts on my system. What's great is, they sound like real records. Plus, GarageBand has great tones, so when I put down guitar lines, the band doesn't have to guess what they're going to sound like. They pretty much know what I'm going to do on the record."



Why not? Create an analogue/digital orchestra? Combine GarageBand playing and traditional musical instrument playing in the same ensemble?

▶ As a recording studio

Both versions of GarageBand allow recording of audio alongside your sequenced midi. The vast library of loops can also be dragged and dropped in to the arrangement here. Autotune and guitar amp simulation mean that the quality of sound is extremely high. Recorded sounds and audio loops can also be transposed without changing speed.

Bronze Arts Award Part B: explore the arts as an audience member

Links to KS3 music curriculum

- ▶ Students listen with discrimination to music from a wide range of composers and musicians, critically review what they hear, and share their reviews.

For this part students need to watch live events and review them. They can of course attend a gig, concert or performance but they could also explore live streamed shows that are created to be experienced online.



Did you know? The London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) offers a selection of concerts streamed live online for free? Most concerts are broadcast live on their YouTube channel.



Why not? Explore a wide range of genres of live music via the Livestream platform now part of Vimeo: [livestream.com/watch/browse/music](https://www.vimeo.com/watch/browse/music)

Part C: arts inspiration

Links to KS3 music curriculum

- ▶ Students develop an understanding of the music they perform and listen to, and its history through this research

In this part students research artists and their work. How about researching professional producers that use GarageBand in their work e.g. as an ideas log or to build tracks? Some examples of artists and bands that have said they use GarageBand are Oasis, Snow Patrol, Fall Out Boy and James Blunt.

Oasis: "We actually do our demos now in Gem [Archer]'s bedroom on his little GarageBand computer." Noel Gallagher

Snow Patrol: "I'm on GarageBand every day just making noise really, be it on the tour bus, in the hotel or at my house - I just try and do as much recording as I possibly can" Gary Lightbody

James Blunt: "I keep it really, really basic. I just whack things down to GarageBand, simple as that. I try not to get too embroiled in the demoing process. My approach is to write the song, record it simply, and have it so that I can remember it for when we go into a proper studio. If I have the chords, the lyrics and the melody down, I'm good."

Part D: arts skills share

In this section students share their skills with others. This can be one to one or in a larger group.

They can choose to pass on skills that they have acquired through learning how to use Garageband or choose another musical skill altogether.

Links to KS3 music curriculum

- ▶ This part could encompass a range of curriculum links especially the ones mentioned for part A.



Why not? Use Part D as part of a transition project where KS3 students share skills with KS2 doing Arts Award Discover or Explore?



Why not? Use the Artists Lessons feature on GarageBand to get ideas on what makes a good skills share?



Tip for teachers: Help your students by explaining the structure of a good lesson e.g. intro, starter, main activities, plenary, getting and giving feedback from/to participants.

Other useful resources:

- ▶ [KS3 Arts Award Curriculum Resources](#)
- ▶ [Sing with Trinity](#)
- ▶ [Free Trinity Rock and Pop practice app](#)
- ▶ [Rock and Pop Grade exams](#)
- ▶ [BBC Ten Pieces and Arts Award](#)
- ▶ [Arts Award on Voice Magazine for young people](#)

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