



My Orchestra

Be a Conductor

We are learning to¹ :

[ELG 08/P5 - Music]	Perform co-operatively by waiting their turns and responding to signs given by a musical conductor
[ELG 17/P3 - Music]	Represent their own ideas in imaginative and creative ways, communicate intentionally to make choices when composing
[ELG 01/P8 - Music]	Listen attentively while making musical compositions

Preparation:

- Before starting the activity, go over the concept of an Orchestra. Some pointers to explain and discuss:
 - What is an orchestra?
 - Who is a conductor and what does a conductor do?
 - What does a conductor use to lead the orchestra?
- Assign one learner as a conductor of a Musical Orchestra. Other learners can sit in a half circle, with the conductor in the middle. Decide if the conductor in the activity should use a conductor's baton, or photos of learners, or coloured symbols representing Cosmoids.
- Open **"My Orchestra"** activity
- Choose the number of Cosmoids (2-6) according to the number of learners, excluding the conductor or the number of instruments to be in the orchestra.
- Hand over a Cosmoid to each learner, except the conductor.
- The conductor could select a music track from the list.
- Allow some time for each learner to explore each instrument represented by each Cosmoid. Make a note of what instrument they can hear with respect to each Cosmoid.

Demonstrate:

Play the activity and show how to add and remove instrumental beats by pressing the Cosmoids.

¹ Incorporated: Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (Early Learning Goals), Performance - P Scale - attainment targets for pupils with special educational needs and Pre-key stage 1: the 2020/21 academic year onwards

Main activity:

1. Once the setup is ready and learners are acquainted with the Musical Orchestra, play the activity.
2. Encourage the conductor to cue each learner when to start and stop playing their instrumental beats using their Cosmoids.
3. One way to conduct the Orchestra could be:
 - “Let’s hear (name of 1st learner) play the drums”,
 - “Let’s hear (name of 2nd learner) play the guitar”, and so on.
 - Prompt a particular learner to stop playing, while other learners continue, creating a musical piece.
 - “Let’s all play in an orchestra”. Signal for all learners to join, and after some time, signal for all to stop altogether.”
4. Encourage each learner to take turns in conducting the orchestra and create a piece of music using their creativity.

Variations:

- A great way to encourage more than 7 learners to participate- add some light physical instruments, like egg shakers, maracas, and triangles, and encourage the conductor to blend those beats with the instruments on the iPad.
- Give a chance to each learner to play their instrument on each Cosmoid and then match pictures of instruments to the corresponding sound they hear.

Additional tips:

- For individual play, choose the number of Cosmoid according to the number of instruments you want in your orchestra.

Resources:

Baton, photos of learners, colour cards, light musical instruments (egg shakers, maracas, triangle, etc.), and pictures of instruments.

Key Words:

Start, stop, play, orchestra, conductor, names of instruments, turn-taking, collaboration, music

