Unit 8: Performing (ongoing)

Recommended prior knowledge
See Overview page 1.

Context
Students must record one solo and one ensemble performance.

Outline
This unit suggests some ways in which performing activities can be integrated into class lessons.

Suggested teaching activities
By the end of the course, students should have recorded a solo and an ensemble performance, of between four and ten minutes' duration in total (see syllabus). In most cases, the teaching of instruments and/or singing is likely to take place outside of the classroom; however, from a student's perspective, playing their instrument or singing is perhaps the thing they enjoy they most about music and may well be the reason they chose to study Cambridge IGCSE Music (US) in the first place. Teachers should therefore seek opportunities wherever possible to integrate performing into their lessons. There are many ways to do this: • Ask pupils to play examples of music in the style that you are studying • Demonstrate rudiments (e.g. articulation or ornamentation) or different instrumental effects (e.g. arco or pizzicato) by asking the students to play them on their instruments • Find compositional devices in music from any style that your students are playing • Perform their own and each other's compositions The responsibility for arranging an ensemble is most likely to lie with the school music teacher. Bear in mind the following points when doing this: • Not everyone in an ensemble has to be a candidate for the examination, or even a student at the school. Teachers may be members of ensembles. • It is important that the ensemble music is the right level for the student – this can be harder to achieve than for solo repertoire, but must not be neglected if the student is to demonstrate their best skills. • Existing ensemble music may be appropriate, but teachers may need to arrange and adapt music to fit their circumstances. See the syllabus and examiner reports for detailed guidance on acceptable ensemble submissions and for information on assessing and submitting the performances – http//teachers.cie.org.uk.