

THE JLS WAY

Hear it. Sing it. Play it. Make it. Share it.

Every JLS Music lesson, pack, app and game walks through the same five doors, in the same order, whether the learner is four or forty, in a classroom, a studio, a church band or at the kitchen table. The doors are short. Some take two minutes. None are skipped.

1

Hear it

2 TO 5 MIN

Echo a rhythm.
Echo a short tune.
Listen to something with one question in mind. The ear wakes up and the room settles.

2

Sing it

BEFORE ANY
INSTRUMENT

The pattern is sung first, with hand signs, rhythm names or words. Guitarists sing. Drummers sing. The voice is the first instrument.

3

Play it

SMALL STEPS,
MANY REPEATS

Body first, then instrument. One new thing at a time, repeated until easy. The band plays together from lesson one; harmony comes from the group.

4

Make it

FROM THE FIRST
TERM

Change one note. Answer a musical question. Improvise inside a frame. Write eight bars. Children create, not only copy.

5

Share it

EVERY LESSON

Play it for someone: the other half of the class, a recording, a parent. A performance every term, however small.

Six things we believe

- Every child can. Ability is grown, not found.
- Ear before eye. Sound before symbol. Reading comes, by a sequence, and it comes to everyone.
- Small steps, many repeats, warm room. Nobody learns while afraid.
- Our own music first, then the world's. South African songs, grooves and voices are the starting point. Original material, made for these learners.
- Band first. Everyone has a part. Nobody is last.
- Five minutes a day at home beats an hour on Sunday. A home partner helps; the lesson never depends on one.

Who it is for

The same five doors, scaled to the room. Resources are built for every age and every setting, one at a time.

Early years 0 to 5

Grades R to 3

Grades 4 to 6

Grades 7 to 9

Grades 10 to 12

Adults and beginners of any age

School classes and clubs

Marimba and school bands

Music studios

Church bands

Adult bands

Home-school families

One path, from the first clap to the first gig

What each phase works on. Learners who start later begin at the door that fits them, not at the age that fits them.

Phase	Ear and voice	Rhythm	Pitch and reading	Instruments	Making	At home
Early years 0 to 5	Lap songs, echo games, moving to music	Beat in the body: walk, rock, clap, tap	High and low, up and down, two-note songs	Shakers, drums, voice, a first mini marimba	Change the animal, change the word	One song to sing together every day
Foundation Grades R to 3	Singing games, echo singing, inner hearing (sing it in your head)	Walk and run rhythms, rests, long notes; rhythm names	Two notes, then three, then five; hand signs; pictures and stick notation	Body, untuned percussion, mini marimba, boomwhackers	Make a four-beat pattern; new words to a known tune	Home card: a song to sing to someone
Intermediate Grades 4 to 6	Rounds and part singing; listening with a purpose	Faster subdivisions, dotted rhythms, 3/4 and 6/8	The full scale; the staff; the key of the week	Marimba band, ukulele, recorder, keyboard, guitar	Eight-bar pieces, layered patterns, lyrics	Five-minute card and a listening list
Senior Grades 7 to 9	Harmony singing, lead and backing	Syncopation, South African grooves, patterns against patterns	Chords by number, chord charts, TAB, lead sheets	Band roles: bass, chords, melody, percussion; keys, bass, guitar, drums, voice	Arrange a song, build a beat, write a song	Practice log; record and share
Further Grades 10 to 12, adults	Playing by ear; hearing chord changes; blending in a section	Feel and groove; playing with a drummer and a click	Reading what the gig needs: charts, numbers, cues	Church, school and community bands; studio groups; solo instrument	Lead a rehearsal; arrange for the band you have; produce a track	A practice plan; a recording a week

What a lesson looks like

Hear
echo, listen

Sing
solfa, names

Play
body, instrument

Make
change, create

Share
perform

Then a one-page **Home card**: the week's song, a five-minute task, something to listen to, a tick box.

How progress is measured

Four levels on every rubric: **Secure, Developing, Emerging, Needs support**. Five things are measured, never talent:

- **Ear**: echoes in tune and in time
- **Band**: plays a part, listens, follows and leads
- **Technique**: sound and posture
- **Reading**: at the phase's level
- **Making**: offers an idea, finishes a piece

Every level comes with a next step. Nobody is shown as last.

Where you will meet the five doors

- **Curriculum Packs**: every lesson page is the five doors, plus a Home card.
- **Marimba Wave**: classroom lessons, solfa and listening games.
- **Games that teach music**: each game is one door.
- **The Music Studio**: lesson plans and practice logs.
- **Home-school packs**: the same lessons for one adult and one or two children.

You do not need to be a musician to start. The doors tell you what to do next.