

A LEVEL MUSIC



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Syllabus (OCR)

The A Level syllabus covers the three areas of COMPOSING, PERFORMING, and LISTENING/ANALYSIS:

COMPOSING (usually 25%)

For your final coursework submission you will compose 2 pieces (making a total of at least 4 minutes of music). The first piece is your response to a brief set by the Examination Board, the second is to a brief written by you.

PERFORMING (usually 35%)

You will perform a recital made up of at least 3 contrasting pieces of Grade VI standard or above. This is coursework rather than an exam and will be recorded on video. You can have several shots at your recital in order to capture your very best performance.

LISTENING AND APPRAISAL (40%)

You will study works from the Classical period and from the American Popular Song. You will also study a selection of works by composers representing the areas of Romantic Programme Music; 20th Century Innovations; Sacred Music of the Baroque Era. This aspect of the course is examined in a 2.5 hour formal exam during which you will answer short technical questions, respond to recordings of familiar and unfamiliar music and write 2 essays selected from the 6 possibilities available.

What do we do in lessons?

Students undertake group and individual research and analysis. There will be teacher led sessions and workshops in theory, harmony, performance and composing.

What other opportunities are there for music making?

You will be encouraged to take part in a range of activities including:

- Jazz Ensemble
- College Production
- Springfest Concert
- Open Events
- Concert Trips
- Resources are available for students to initiate their own music making activities.

Peripatetic music lessons are available at subsidised rates to all A Level musicians.

What qualifications/experience do I need?

A Level Music is a highly academic course which focuses almost exclusively on Classical music. First and foremost you need to be motivated to listen to a good deal of 'serious' music.

You need to have a good level of technical competence in at least one instrument and to READ music fluently. Grade V Theory is ideal but not essential (you should discuss this with the Course Leader). You will be working with lots of music scores both in class and in the exam, and need to be able to follow these with ease. A good basic level is essential before you start the course.

How will A Level Music prepare me for the future?

Some students go on to study music at Degree Level (Conservatoires, Universities). For others it is an A Level which facilitates their successful applications to study other disciplines. It is a subject which is highly respected by Higher Education institutions and known to be challenging due, in particular, to the wide range of skills it demands.



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