

Music

Advanced Level

General Information

The course covers Performing, Composition, Analysis and Musical History.

Module 1

Specialises in the history and analysis of music. You focus on the Baroque solo concerto, the operas of Mozart, Romantic piano music, musical theatre and popular music.

You learn how the music is constructed, how it reflects the time in which it was composed and the important links that exist with other related areas of music. Knowledge of traditional music notation, harmony, keys and scales is essential, as is the ability to read a score.

Module 2

Specialises in the performance of music. This unit utilises the skills that you have already acquired.

Module 3

Specialises in composition. This element incorporates IT and extensive use of music software, particularly Sibelius 8. As well as having the opportunity to be creative, the course offers the opportunity to acquire the traditional techniques of composition.

The whole course is ideal if you have learnt a musical instrument over a number of years and are at grade 5 standard or above. Many students who play an instrument will find the course enjoyable because it uses already acquired performance skills which count for 35% of the final mark.

The ability to play an instrument or sing is required as is taking part in at least one of the college ensembles. It is desirable to have knowledge of music theory to a grade 5 standard.



Entry requirements

Knowledge of music theory to at least a grade 5 standard is desirable: this will be assessed through a theory test in Bridging. You should also perform a musical instrument or sing to grade 5 standard. You must be interested in listening to a wide range of music and wish to acquire and improve your essential skills in music.

You should also meet the general college entry requirements for advanced level study. Please refer to the current prospectus – advanced programmes, entry requirements.

In this subject, particular skills and aptitudes will be required, many of which will be demonstrated by students' GCSE profiles.

Entry requirements might be changed in light of curriculum reform.

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Course content

Module 1: Appraising of Music

You study set works, currently concertos by Bach, Vivaldi and Purcell, *The Marriage of Figaro* by Mozart, and musicals by Rogers, Sondheim and Schönberg. In addition, you will also study two further modules on Romantic piano music and popular music.

Module 2: Performance

You offer a performance as either a soloist on an instrument or voice or as part of an ensemble. A minimum standard of grade 5 is required.

Module 3: Composition

Coursework consists of two compositions - one free composition and one working to a brief. Students compose a work for voices and / or a small ensemble.

Examination details

Module 1

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| Appraising of Music | Written Exam | 40% of A-Level |
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Module 2

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| Performance | Externally Assessed | 35% of A-Level |
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Module 3

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| Composition | Coursework | 25% of A-Level |
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How it is taught

We listen to a wide range of music and examine the techniques used by a variety of composers. Short essays are set after informal listening and discussion; music software can be used for both composition and the improvement of music theory. You have the opportunity to work both individually and as part of a group. Opportunities are also provided to play an instrument or sing in rehearsals and concerts throughout the year. You are encouraged to integrate all the units so that what is learnt in one area can be practically applied to another.

Useful / common subject combinations

Music combines well with all other subjects.

Careers / HE information

Music enhances essential skills such as communication, problem solving, creativity, working in a team and building self-confidence. The experiences it offers are valuable in university applications and many of our music students have continued their musical studies in Higher Education.

Other relevant information

Music is an enjoyable course and harnesses skills that you may have acquired not only at your previous school but also at home.