



Music

Why you should follow this course

AS/A Level Music is intended to give all students the opportunity to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in music whatever their previous experience.

What topics/aspects will you cover during the course?

Its six-unit structure allows you to experience all three main musical disciplines of performing, composing and listening with understanding (appraising). The course has been designed to engage and extend your appreciation of the diverse and dynamic heritage of music.

Set Works – an engaging and varied range of set works to nurture in-depth musical understanding:

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| Vocal Music |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J.S. Bach, Cantata, Ein feste Burg, BWV 80: Movements 1, 2 and 8 Mozart, The Magic Flute: Excerpts from Act 1 no. 4 (Queen of the Night), 5 (Quintet) <p>A level only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaughan Williams, On Wenlock Edge: Nos. 1, 3 and 5 ('On Wenlock Edge', 'Is my team ploughing?' and 'Bredon Hill') |
| Instrumental Music |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vivaldi, Concerto in D minor, Op. 3 No. 11 Clara Wieck-Schumann, Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17: Movement 1 <p>A level only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Berlioz, Symphonie Fantastique: Movement 1 |
| Music for Film |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Danny Elfman, Batman Returns: Main theme (Birth of a Penguin Part II), Birth of a Penguin Part I, Rise and fall from grace, Batman vs the Circus Rachel Portman, The Duchess and End titles, Mistake of your life, Six years later, and Never see your children again <p>A level only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bernard Herrmann, Psycho: Prelude, The City, Marion, The Murder (Shower Scene), The Toys, The Cellar, Discovery, Finale |
| Popular Music and Jazz |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courtney Pine, Back in the Day: Inner state (of mind), Lady Day and (John Coltrane), Love and affection Kate Bush, Hounds of Love: Cloudbursting, And dream of sheep, Under Ice <p>A level only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beatles, Revolver: Eleanor Rigby, I'm only sleeping, Here, there and everywhere, I want to tell you, Tomorrow never knows |
| Fusions |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debussy, 'Estampes': Nos. 1 and 2 ('Pagodes' and 'La soirée dans Grenade') Familia Valera Miranda, Caña Quemada: 'Allà va candela, and 'Se quemada la chumbambà' <p>A level only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anoushka Shankar, Breathing Under Water: Burn, Breathing Under Water, Easy |
| New Directions |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cage, Three Dances for two prepared pianos: No. 1 Kaija Saariaho, Petals of Violoncello and Live Electronics <p>A level only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stravinsky, Rite of Spring: Introduction, The Augurs of Spring, Ritual of Abduction |

What can you do when you have your qualification?

Music is both a creative and an academic subject, and to gain a qualification in it proves to any college, university or employer, that you are a special kind of person that can cope with the organisation, dedication and discipline. A professional in music can work in many areas; playing, composing, teaching, theatre, recording, TV/media to name a few.

Examination Board: Edexcel

Qualification: AS & A Level

ASSESSMENT

PERFORMING

| AS | A Level |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 6 minutes | 8 minutes |
| Level 6 standard (approx.) | Level 7 standard (approx.) |

- Students can use the same piece(s) of music to perform at AS and A Level
- Students can add to their performance at A Level due to the increase in the minimum time
- The performance will have to be recorded again in the year of certification for the A Level
- The work submitted will be marked to the different standards of AS and A Level

COMPOSING

| AS | A Level |
|---|---|
| 4½ minutes minimum composition time | 6 minutes minimum composition time |
| 2 pieces – one to a brief and either one to a brief or a free composition | 2 pieces – either one to a brief or a free composition and one to a brief assessing technique |

- Free composition in A Level can be resubmitted and developed from one of the pieces composed in AS Level
- Compositions must be developed for 2 hours in the year of certification
- The work submitted will be marked to the different standards of AS and A Level

APPRAISING

| AS | A Level |
|--|--|
| 90 minute exam – 80 marks | 2 hour exam – 100 marks |
| 6 Areas of Study with 2 set works | 6 Areas of Study with 3 set works |
| Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions, New Directions | Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions, New Directions |

- Same Areas of Study used for AS and A Level
- The AS set works are a subset of the A Level set works – common to both
- AS appraising content and year 1 of the A Level appraising content are the same
- In year 2 of the A Level you will need to revisit the AS set works in greater depth as well as learning about the additional 6 set works.

For further information or advice please see
Mr Verry dverry@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk