



MUSIC STUDIES

A LEVEL – YEAR 11 TO YEAR 12

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

GENERAL

PRACTICE: Daily practice of your instrument or voice is essential to A-level Music so if you don't do so already, get into the habit and start regular and systematic rehearsal now. Sixty minutes is a modest amount of daily practice.

CONCERT GOING: Take the opportunity over the summer months to get online and experience free concerts/gigs distributed by major artists and labels, the world's great concert venues and festivals. Watch complete concerts. London's premiere venues all have online content: South Bank Centre, Barbican and Kings Place. Remember the Royal Albert Hall, venue for the BBC PROMS – the biggest classical music festival in the world 30th July – 11th September 2021. Go beyond watching your favourite artists and experiment with new names and unfamiliar styles.

MUSIC THEORY: Music theory knowledge is integral to A-level Music success. There is a wealth of material available on the internet with sites such as www.musictheory.net and teoria.com providing varied and interactive material to develop your knowledge - not to mention the many excellent Apple and Android Smartphone apps. It is vital to revise and deepen your theoretical understanding before you start A-level music, a qualification that is unofficially specified to start post-Grade 5 theory level.

READING MUSIC: Confidence in reading music notation is crucial to sixth form music and musical analysis. If you need to improve your fluency you must practise by

- i) sight-reading music regularly, and
- ii) listening to music following a score

There are plenty available with 'moving scores' on YouTube. For sight reading practice there is a vast quantity of free .pdf sheet music on the web.

Before your first Year 12 Music lessons start you have a number of things to do by way of preparation, reflection and musical development. These tasks will take many weeks to work through and prepare:

THREE SPECIFIC TASKS TO COMPLETE

By week 1 of college: WRITTEN Analytical concert reviews

By week 2 of college: PRACTICAL Solo live performance to your class

By week 3 of college: COMPOSITION Scenario-based piece or song

Before your first Year 12 Music lesson, please complete the following tasks:

TASKS 1

Write an analytical review of two live performances. Watch two, complete, online 'live' concerts (one classical music; one non-classical) over the summer months. To get a feel for the type of review required visit Guardian Online and read some expert reviews of live music performances of jazz, classical and popular music. Referring to effective, analytical online material (and to suitable printed media) will assist with the style and content of your own report. Each review should be 250 - 300 words long and handed in during your first lesson. One review must be in your own handwriting; the second review must be typed in using Word. Make sure that you discuss the musical content of both events so as to assist the reader.

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TASKS 2

Learn a new solo piece for your instrument or voice; you will need to give me the title and composer during your first lesson in week 1. It must not be shorter than two minutes or longer than 4 minutes. Quality backing tracks may be used by singers and instrumentalists or an accompanist will be provided. You will have to perform this piece to the Year 12 Music class in the second week of term.

TASKS 3

Compose an original piece or song for your instrument or voice and record it on your phone/ other digital device/laptop OR perform it live. The piece or song must be inspired by an event or events, feelings or experiences surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Give the piece/song a title e.g. 'Home but not alone' or 'So, this is this isolation' etc. You will need to describe the personal inspiration for your song or piece in a typed document of between 100 - 150 words. If you write a song, you must submit a lyric sheet; you may adapt words from another author. All students must submit an audio file of their composition with their written description.

A preliminary music theory assessment will follow in Week 4 at ABRSM Grade 3 – 5 level