



A-Level Music

EXAM BOARD: EDUQAS (WJEC)

Contact: Mr A Williams

Course Outline:

This course develops performing, composing and listening skills.

Students develop their performance on their chosen instrument (or more than one instrument) to a high standard. As a guide, the standard a candidate should have reached during the first year is Grade 5 or equivalent ability (this rises to Grade 6 during the second year). Candidates work towards a performance recital at the end of the second year of the 2-year course.

Candidates will undertake a number of composing assignments to develop their skills in this area. Candidates produce a short composition to a brief set by the exam board, during supervised coursework time. In the second year, students will produce a composition to a given brief where they are required to compose in a recognised style from Western Classical Tradition. Students will have access to advanced music technology software including Sibelius 7, Logic Pro X and Garageband within our brand new iMac suite. Alongside this the department has exclusive practice rooms and recording facilities to accommodate your musical interests whilst studying the course, which can also be booked outside of normal lesson times. If studying the A-Level course only 1 performance recital and 2 or 3 compositions (see across) will be handed in as part of the externally assessed component.

For A-Level there are four set works in addition to much wider listening. A willingness to listen to and analyse a wide range of different pieces of music is essential. Students will study three Areas of Study. The first Area of Study is The Western Classical Tradition, and this is compulsory. The second Area of Study is a choice between Rock & Pop, Musical Theatre or Jazz, and the final Area of Study is a choice between 'Into the 20th Century' or 'Into the 21st Century'.

Students' performance and composition work will be showcased in the many music events held at St. Martin's School, with further opportunities for students to become more rounded musicians, excelling in the practical aspects of the course.

From 2017, Music AS and Music A-Level are separate qualifications that run over 1 or 2 years. AS work does not count towards an A-Level grade, but it is a qualification in its own right (½ an A-Level).

A-Level can also be completed in 1 or 2 years, and is a direct extension of AS.

Assessment Framework:

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- An 8 min or 12 min performance recital on their chosen instrument. (35% or 25%).
- Two compositions including one to a set brief totalling 6-8 minutes or three compositions including one to a set brief totalling 10-12 minutes (25% or 35%).
- A listening exam - two Areas of Study with four set works between them and one optional Area of Study with no set works (choice of Rock & Pop, Musical Theatre and Jazz) (40%).

Course Entry Requirements:

Music GCSE: 6

Or equivalent musical experience, such as grade 5 on any instrument or voice (or an ability to play/sing to this standard).

A willingness to participate or support extracurricular music clubs, events and upper school production.

Why Study A-Level Music?

Music leads on to music degree courses at university. It is virtually essential for anyone who wishes to teach music at secondary level or above. It is also a very advantageous qualification for students wishing to pursue a career in performance, composition, music teaching (peri and whole class), music retail, product/instrument demonstration, music production, music therapy, studio recording, producing, radio, and music PR.

Music A-Level links to many performance based degrees. Apprenticeships working for leading entertainment agencies and organisations can come from having a secure knowledge of music and the industry, companies such as Alivenetwork, Audio Network and Entertainment Nation to name but a few.