

## Transition to A Level Music Course Overview

**Coursework – Either Option A or Option B – no mixing!**

### **Coursework Component 1: Performing**

Option A (35% of final grade)

- a) Externally assessed performance of 10-12 minutes in duration.
- b) Minimum of 3 pieces.
- c) Must cover 2 Areas of Study from Western Classical/Rock & Pop/Jazz/Musical Theatre 20<sup>th</sup> Century and 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Option B (25% of final grade)

- a) Externally assessed performance of 6-8 minutes in duration.
- b) Minimum of 2 pieces.
- c) Must cover 1 Area of Study from Western Classical/Rock & Pop/Jazz/Musical Theatre 20<sup>th</sup> Century and 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### **Coursework Component 2: Composing**

Option A (25% of final grade)

- a) Externally assessed portfolio of 4-6 minutes.
- b) Minimum of 2 pieces.
- c) One composition in the Western Classical Tradition to a brief set by Eduqas.
- d) One free composition.

Option B (35% of final grade)

- a) Externally assessed portfolio of 8-10 minutes.
- b) Minimum of 3 pieces.
- c) One composition in the Western Classical Tradition to a brief set by Eduqas.
- d) One composition based on the Rock & Pop, Jazz, Musical Theatre, 20<sup>th</sup> Century or 21<sup>st</sup> Century Areas of Study.
- e) One free composition.

### **Component 3**

Area of Study A: Western Classical Tradition (40% of the exam)

- a) Main set work Haydn 104<sup>th</sup> Symphony and associated set work Mendelssohn 4<sup>th</sup> symphony
- b) Charting the development of the symphony from early Classical to the late Romantic.

Area of Study C: Musical Theatre (30% of the exam)

- a) No set works but set composers that will be studied include Richard Rogers, Stephen Sondheim, Andrew Lloyd-Webber, Claude-Michel Schonberg and Stephen Schwartz

Area of Study E: Into the Twentieth Century (30% of the exam)

- a) 2 set works by Debussy and Poulenc.
- b) Wider consideration of the musical developments in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

In the exam you will:

- Answer a range of questions on the set works, for which we will have prepared in advance – you will have blank scores available to you in the exam room.
- Answer listening questions on works that have not been prepared in advance (we will develop general listening skills in order to complete these questions).
- Comment on the general context of unprepared extracts and relate or compare them to pieces we will have studied during the course.
- Write an essay for Area of Study A which demonstrates knowledge of the symphony in relation both to the two set works studied and their wider social, cultural and historical context.

## Summer To Do List

<b>Basic Music Theory ( <a href="http://www.musictheory.net">www.musictheory.net</a> )</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhythm and Metre</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scales and key signatures</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intervals</li> </ul>
<b>Listening and Describing</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Exercise 1 <a href="https://videopress.com/v/IKSLyZ4Y">https://videopress.com/v/IKSLyZ4Y</a> on Western Classical Music</li> </ul>
<b>Music History Tasks</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen to the 3 tracks using the hyperlinks below  <a href="#">Haydn Lamentation Symphony</a>  <a href="#">Berlioz Symphonie Fantastique 4th Movement</a>  <a href="#">Smetana Ma Vlast</a> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer the 3 questions below for each extract: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Which is your most favourite piece – why?</li> <li>* Which is your least favourite piece – why?</li> <li>* Choose a musical element to focus on when listening to all 3 pieces make comments</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Performance</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider your musical strengths</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research repertoire appropriate to your standard</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure you have organised instrumental lessons</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the Course Overview and make sure that you fulfil the criteria for A or B</li> </ul>
<b>Musical Theatre</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research musicals composed by named composers above</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the key musical stylistic fingerprints of the composers?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose a musical to study in depth and prepare an analysis of key musical points.</li> </ul>

## **YouTube Viewing**

Basic music theory building blocks – [Click here to view](#)

Introduction to the symphony - [The Rise of the Symphony](#)

Symphonic Development - [BBC Symphony Series](#)

The Music of Debussy - [Debussy](#)

If you have any questions, please email me:

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