



# A Level Music WJEC Eduqas

## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW OR BE ABLE TO DO BEFORE TAKING THIS COURSE?

The A Level music course requires a thorough understanding of music theory. Students will need to have achieved a grade 6 or higher at GCSE. Their performing and theoretical knowledge should be at least equivalent to grade 5 at the start of the course. The ability to read and understand music notation in treble and bass clefs is essential.

## FOR WHAT KIND OF STUDENT IS THIS COURSE SUITABLE?

An A Level music student must have a desire to investigate and analyse music across a wide variety of styles and genres from the 17th to the 20th centuries. They will want to take their instrumental/vocal abilities to a standard that transforms them from being players to being performers. They will have the drive to take their composition skills to a higher, more sophisticated level. They will enjoy analysing music and communicating their conclusions in written form.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THIS A LEVEL COURSE?

Students will learn to analyse set works from the score. They will recognise structure, melody, harmony, texture and other elements and place their use in the stylistic context of the music. They will use the work of established composers to influence and inform their own compositions. They will establish a rigorous practise regime using directed time and study periods to develop and improve their ability on their chosen instrument/voice.

For this course students must choose **either** option A in both components 1 and 2 **or** option B in both components 1 and 2. All students must study component 3. Option A allows students to specialise in performing, while option B allows students to specialise in composition.

### Component 1: Performing (30% of the qualification)

- Option A: Students will present a public performance lasting a minimum of 10-12 minutes comprising 35% of the qualification.
- Option B: Students will present a public performance lasting a minimum of 6-8 minutes comprising 25% of the qualification.
- Performances will take place in the spring of year 13 and will be assessed by a visiting examiner.

### Component 2: Composing (30% of the qualification)

- Option A: Students will prepare a portfolio of **two** compositions lasting a total of 4-6 minutes comprising 25% of the qualification.
- Option B: Students will prepare a portfolio of **three** compositions lasting a total of 8-10 minutes comprising 35% of the qualification.

### **Component 3: Appraising** (40% of the qualification)

Students will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of music through **three** areas of study. Area of study A is compulsory; we choose one from areas B,C and D; and one from areas E and F.

- Area of study A: **The Western Classical Tradition** (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900)

Choice of **one** from:

- Area of study B: **Rock and Pop**
- Area of study C: **Musical Theatre**
- Area of study D: **Jazz**

Choice of **one** from:

- Area of study E: **Into the Twentieth Century**
- Area of study F: **Into the Twenty-First Century**

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