



Summer Tasks

So, you think you would like to study: MUSIC

Compulsory Summer Task Title / Instructions:

1. Performance Preparation: In Year 12 you will have two solo performance assessments and it is a good idea to start thinking about suitable music for the first of these, which will take place towards the end of September. The music for the first practice assessment needs to last around 2-3 minutes and can be of any standard you feel happy to play. For the second one (Just after the Easter holiday) the music needs to last 5-6 minutes and may consist of more than one piece.

For the second performance you should be aiming for something at least grade 5-6 standard so you are on course for a grade 7 standard programme in year 13, and you should choose the pieces in consultation with your singing or instrumental teacher. If you do not already have a teacher you can have weekly lessons at Springwood with a 50% discount, or a fortnightly lesson free of charge. It is not sensible to tackle a component worth at least 30% of the course without specialist input and can lead to a mistake many students make, choosing music that is unnecessarily difficult!

2. Theory: Many of you will have already undertaken some theory work as part of your musical studies so far; either on your instrument or as part of your GCSE. To stand the best chance of accessing the full range of marks available, our suggestion is that you have a working knowledge of music theory equivalent to Grade 5 or above when you start the A-level course in Year 12. You work at this yourself by purchasing the Associated Board (ABRSM) Theory of Music workbooks and the AB Guide to Music Theory by Eric Cole. There are also various online resources, some of which are listed below, and many are completely free.

Towards the end of September, we will ask you to complete some questions from a theory paper of Grade 5 standard to see how you are getting on. The A-Level course requires you to work our harmony examples in treble and bass clef so aim to build your expertise. It's also useful to have a good understanding of intervals such as minor 3rds, diminished 5ths etc.

3. Composition : You will be involved in composing activities throughout your A-Level Music course. The main software students work with for compositions at A-Level is Dorico and Cubase. Whilst we appreciate some of you may have used these, or similar software, previously we assume no prior knowledge, and do not necessarily expect you to have software at home, we can help you with free copies of both programmes through our position as a Steinberg Training Centre. A link to Dorico is below but please contact us for Cubase.

In September you will be asked to undertake a simple, short, composition task to gauge your skills. However, upon return, please pass one of your previous compositions (possibly one completed for GCSE) to your teacher.

4. Musical Theatre: Alongside your Classical Music studies you will also study works by Richard Rodgers, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, Claude-Michel Schonberg, Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Stephen Schwarz. Try to **watch** a film of a musical (or two) with music written by one, or more, of these composers and make notes of characters and anything interesting that you notice. There are plenty of these on streaming channels such as Netflix or on Sky Arts.

optional extension:

Listen to a range of Classical Music, particularly symphonies from the Classical and Romantic periods of Music (*composers such as Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Mahler and Tchaikovsky*). Try to locate and follow the scores where possible, perhaps on IMSLP. Write a report on the structure of the movements as you move through the different musical periods.

Website ideas:

www.mymusictheory.com: Online Theory Music Lessons and quizzes

<https://musictheoryblog.blogspot.com/>: Further examples of Music Theory

<https://imslp.org/>: Online Orchestral Score Library

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/proms>: The world's greatest Classical Music Festival, many concerts available to listen to, or stream.

<https://www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk/>: Our local Music Festival

<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=2060>: Eduqas A-Level Resources (*Exam Board website*)

<https://alevelmusic.com/>: A website prepared by Tom Pankhurst, an A-Level examiner, for his own students.

<https://www.steinberg.net/dorico/se/>: Free downloads of 'Dorico', the software we use in school for composing.

Books Required for the A-Level Music Course:

- Haydn "Symphony No.100 in G Major" (*the 'Military'*) – Eulenberg Miniature Score ISBN: 9783795765118 (<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/en/product/symphony-no-100-in-g-major-military-hob-i-100-london-no-12-17374757.html>)
- Schubert "Symphony No.5 in Bb Major" – Eulenberg Miniature Score, ISBN: 9783795762872 (<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/en/product/symphony-no-5-in-b-flat-major-d-485-6017375.html>)
- Text Book "The Symphony: From Mannheim to Mahler", ISBN: 9780571542406 (<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/en/product/the-symphony-from-mannheim-to-mahler-22307975.html>)

Suggested Visit: Any Classical Music Concerts (*Kings Lynn Festival, BBC Proms etc*) or at least listen/watch to some of the BBC Proms Concert Series (*Broadcast on the BBC*)

Please submit the tasks to your teacher on the first lesson in September