



## Summer Tasks

**So, you think you would like to continue into Year 13 studying: MUSIC**

### **Summer Task Title / Instructions:**

**1. Performance Preparation:** In Year 13 you will have a 'mock' performance in January, and your final recital in March/April. Please return in September with a provisional programme that you plan to be working on and prepare at least one piece from it to perform at the end of September. In your final recital you must perform for 10-12 minutes and include at least three pieces. At least one of these pieces must be as a soloist. The other pieces may be either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study.

For your recital you should be aiming for something at least grade 7 standard so you are able to access the full range of marks available, although, if these are proving too much of a challenge you may choose less difficult pieces. You should choose the pieces in consultation with your singing or instrumental teacher. If you do not already have a teacher you can still 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:** In Year 13 more advanced theoretical aspects will be introduced as we will start work on the final Area of Study, "Into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century". The composers in this time used a lot of 'non-conventional' scales. Please research and understand the following and then write them out with letter names and the pattern for building them (using 'tones' and 'semitones').

- a) There are 7 different 'modes' – name them all and write how to construct them and then write them all out starting on the note 'C'.
- b) A Pentatonic Scale, write how to construct one and then write it out starting on the note 'C'.
- c) An Octatonic Scale, write how to construct one and then write it out starting on the note 'C'.
- d) An Acoustic Scale, write how to construct one and then write it out starting on the note 'G'.

Towards the end of September, we will be looking at pieces of music classed as being 'Serialist', research and understand what 'Serialism' is in Music from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century and how it was constructed; what methods were used etc.

**3. Composition:** Towards the end of Year 12 you will have started work on your 'Free Choice' composition. Over the Summer, please complete this piece in draft format and send, along with a write-up of what you are 'trying' to write (*style, instrumentation, structure, Area of Study it links to etc*) to Mr Norman for feedback. All music should now be completed on Dorico or Cubase, the software we use at Springwood. 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 the Exam Board 'briefs' will be released, and we will go through these so you can make an informed choice on your second composition.

**4. Musical Theatre:** Alongside your Classical Music studies you will continue with your Musical Theatre studies of musicals by Richard Rodgers, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, Claude-Michel Schonberg, Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Stephen Schwarz. Listen to the soundtrack or watch a film version of a musical (or two) with music written by Stephen Schwarz or Claude-Michel Schonberg as these will be the composers we will study at the beginning of Year 13. As you listen, make notes of characters, plot synopsis, song lists and anything interesting that you notice musically. There are plenty of these on streaming channels such as Netflix or on Sky Arts.

**5. Additional practice:** Continue to listen to a range of symphonies as listed in the '50 Great Symphonies' passed to you in Year 12. 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. Also, listen to some of the works of Debussy, Poulenc and Schoenberg.

**Optional Extension - Western Classical Tradition:**

*For this you will need your scores of both Haydn "Symphony 104" and Mendelssohn "Italian Symphony"*

Please look at the opening movement of both symphonies. They were written in 1795 and 1833 respectively (nearly 40 years apart) and use identical orchestration. However, the use of structure, texture, tonality and the way in which the instrumentation is used is very different.

Write a direct comparison in essay format of these two first movements commenting on Structure, Texture, tonality and the use of the instruments. How have things moved on symphonically in those 40 years and what main features can you find that portray the move from the Classical to the Romantic periods?

Use specific examples including, where appropriate, bar numbers and beats to show the different sections of the structure along with specific examples to demonstrate the points you raise.

This should be around 1500-2000 words along with musical examples.

Website ideas:

[www.mymusictheory.com](http://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?rlid=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.

<p><b>Recommended Additional Reading:</b> "The Symphony: From Mannheim to Mahler", ISBN: 9780571542406 (<a href="https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/en/product/the-symphony-from-mannheim-to-mahler-22307975.html">https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/en/product/the-symphony-from-mannheim-to-mahler-22307975.html</a>)</p>
<p><b>Suggested Visit:</b> Any Classical Music Concerts (<i>Kings Lynn Festival, BBC Proms etc</i>) or at least listen/watch to some of the BBC Proms Concert Series (<i>Broadcast on the BBC</i>)</p>
<p><b>Please submit the tasks to your teacher on the first lesson in September</b></p>