



AS / A2 Music (Level 3)

WHY TAKE THIS COURSE?

This subject is suitable for experienced performers who have a high level of musical theory knowledge. This course will allow you to develop your knowledge and understanding of many different styles of music and the music theory underpinning each style, through in-depth study and analysis.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Within the performance module you will develop your instrumental technique and the ability to interpret the performance details of your chosen pieces. During composition, listening and analysis sessions, you will develop aural perception and stylistic awareness skills, as well as an understanding of the different elements of music e.g structure, instrumentation, harmony, rhythm and melody.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will undertake an assessed performance every half term, culminating in a five to six minute continuous recital at the end of the year (30%). Composition is assessed during a 15 hour exam spread over several weeks, where you will create three minutes of music in response to one of four briefs (30%). Finally, there is an exam (40%), consisting of 3 sections: Section A is listening skills based on a question about set works studied, Section B is essay titles relating to the set works and Section C is a musical analysis using a score and SATB completion.

WHAT SKILLS AND SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS WILL I NEED?

Performance, composition and analysis are of the highest importance. It is expected you will already have a high level of music theory knowledge, be able to read staff notation fluently and have experience both studying and performing music. You will be required to complete an audition and an advanced theory test prior to enrolment. GCSE music is not required for this course, but you will need a solid grounding in music theory and performance (AS music requires grade 5 standard and above).

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

The course would be ideal preparation for a classical music degree either at University or at a specialist music school such as the RNCM. Career options in music include; Performer, Composer, Musical Director, Teacher and Music Critic.

PRIESTLEY EXTRA

You will also be encouraged to take part in subject-related enrichment activities such as recording workshops, ensemble performances, concert trips, guest speakers from the music industry and the College productions. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to attend regular theatre visits, professional workshops and residential trips throughout the year.