

A Level Music

Activities

TASK 1

Music theory is key to understanding at A Level Music. Use the free content on the Music Theory website <https://www.musictheory.net/> to develop your music theory knowledge and understanding with the aim to be able to:

- Be familiar with the circle of fifths
- Understand major and minor scales
- Understand treble and bass clefs
- Know the names of the degrees of the scale and their Roman numerals
- Write out chords in any key with Roman numeral labels
- Understand melodic and harmonic intervals
- Understand cadences and their functions

You can test your understanding with the exercises on the theory website. If you need any further explanations of the key points, there are countless videos available on YouTube.

TASK 2

Engage in a variety of wider listening of music from the course including the following:

- **Any instrumental music by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven**
- **Romantic Programme Music:** Midsummer Night's Dream Overture (Mendelssohn), Danse Macabre (Saint-Saens), The Sorcerer's Apprentice (Dukas), Don Juan (Strauss)
- **Innovations in Music since 1900:** Cello Concerto in E Minor Op. 85 (Elgar), Symphony No. 5 (Mahler), La Mer (Debussy), Metamorphosis (Phillip Glass), Sonatas for Prepared Piano (John Cage)
- **Popular Song; Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band:** Any songs by Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Billie Holiday, Sarah Vaughan, Barbra Streisand and/or Ella Fitzgerald

All the above will be available on Apple Music, Spotify or YouTube. For more general listening you can listen to Classic FM or BBC Radio 3.

Extra

- Create a portfolio of composition ideas. This might be chord progressions, melodies, rhythmic patterns, motivic/thematic ideas or more fully formed composition.
- Prepare a performance piece on your instrument or voice that showcases your abilities. This can be in any style but should be at your current level/grade.
- Research the development of the orchestra from the start of the Baroque period (1600) to the present day and how explain how this influenced the music that was composed.

Contact

Please contact Mr Atkins (Head of Music/Assistant Head of PE & Performing Arts) for further information or support:

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Emails will be monitored periodically throughout the Summer Holidays