

## Music

### A-Level

#### Overview

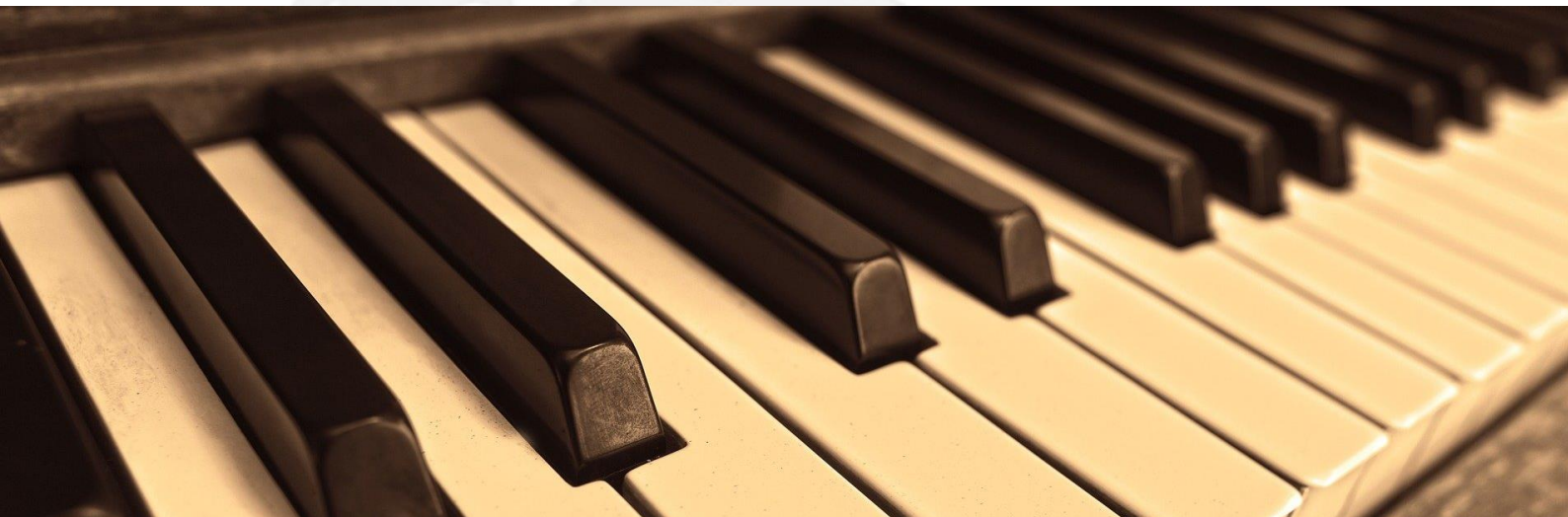
Music A-Level is an exciting and challenging A-Level which not only further develops the student as a musician but develops the critical thinking and discrete skills that universities highly value in their undergraduates. Students would usually be expected to have completed GCSE Music but this is not an absolute necessity. However due to the performance part of the course, students should be at least Grade 6 in performance standard when they start the course.

#### Why Study?

With a variety of disciplines developed, tasks covered and a blend of practical and academic work, A-Level Music is an excellent companion A-level to a wide variety of other subject choices and is a fascinating and stimulating subject to study in the Sixth Form. It develops the key skills of performance, composition and listening which as well as contributing to exam success, are skills that last a lifetime. These are important if thinking about a career in music but are enormously enriching whatever career you have. Recent global events have highlighted the benefits and joy of having musical skills as well as the incredible wellbeing benefits of it. In addition, as well as being a specific discipline which enables students to develop their own musicianship, music develops a whole range of transferable skills that are highly valued. These include memory and concentration skills, perseverance, teamwork skills, adaptability and confidence; skills sought after by higher education institutions and employers alike.

#### Course Overview

For the Performing Unit, there are no limits on the instruments or voices and types of repertoire which may be presented in performance, encouraging the study of the widest possible range of music from folk, popular and classical traditions of non-Western origin as well as those of jazz and the Western classical and popular traditions. Students produce a recital of at least 8 minutes length which accounts for 30% of the total marks for the course.





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Composition makes up the second 30% of the qualification. Students study composition and compositional techniques and use this to produce an extended composition of at least 4 minutes in length, in any style they choose. This task is supplemented by completing two harmonisation exercises in Year 13 in the style of Bach, the study of which greatly improves the student's handling of harmony and line.

The final exam and remaining 40% of the course offers the students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of 18 varied set works which are studied over the two years of the course. These set works are drawn from all areas of music, from Western Classical to modern fusion and provide an excellent base of knowledge for further study at degree level. As well as applying analysis skills to unknown pieces, this exam also includes melodic and rhythmic completion exercises.

#### Progression

Careers leading from A-level Music or a degree in Music into the creative arts are varied and very exciting; these include performing, conducting, composing, music production, music therapy, education, arts administration, event management and radio, TV and film production. Although A-Level Music can lead to a reading Music at university, that is by no means the only path available and music students from Queen's have gone on to read subjects as varied as Maths, Engineering and Languages. In addition the soft skills developed by musicians helps in just about any career with many of our musicians going on into careers as varied as medicine, law, engineering and accountancy.

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