

Course

A level Music

Exam Board

OCR

Entry requirements

GCSE Grade 6 or higher. Ability to play an instrument or sing to around grade 5 standard. Students who did not take GCSE music may still be considered if they are receiving instrumental music lessons and can perform at ABRSM grade 5 standard.

Why study Music?

Students choose A level Music in order to develop their practical musicianship, their knowledge of musical cultures and historical context, their skills as a composer or arranger as well as their analytical skills. Students develop their performing skills in solo and ensemble situations, learn how harmony is used in certain specified genres, compose their own music in response to a brief and refine analytical skills through listening and written tasks.

Course content

Students will study core content including organisation of pitch, harmony and tonality, musical structures, timbres and instrumentation, tempo, metre and rhythm and use of dynamics and expression. In addition to this, they will develop an understanding of musical context and the influence and impact of changing social and cultural contexts. Students will also make in-depth studies into the following areas:

- Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven
- Popular Song: Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band
- Developments in Instrumental Jazz 1910 to the present day
- Religious Music of the Baroque Period
- Programme Music 1820 - 1910
- Innovations in Music 1900 to the Present Day

Performance opportunities

The ability to perform to an audience is an essential skill in many professions. It is a key aspect of leadership and those skills are nurtured and developed through music performance.

Assessment

Students can choose to specialise in either composition or performance.

- Performing 25% or 35%
- Composing 25% or 35%
- Listening & Appraising 40%

Students perform for a minimum of ten minutes on their chosen instrument, compose three pieces of music with a minimum duration of eight minutes and complete a written exam.

Progression after Sixth Form

Many students go on to study music as an undergraduate at a university or conservatoire.

In recent years, students have gone from St Peter's to the Royal Northern College of Music, the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Oxford University, Cambridge University and The Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama.

St Peter's students say...

“I like the small groups, I like the challenge of studying scores and learning about the historical development of music, most of all I love all the different performing opportunities and the tours to New York, Boston and other countries.”

For more information contact Head of Department:

Mrs N. Lacey - nlacey@stpetersacademy.org.uk