



Denmark Road High School

# A level Music



## DRHS Year 11-12 Music Wider Learning Term 5/6 2020

### **AQA A level Music**

Component 1 Appraising (2.5 hour examination) 40%

Component 2 Performance (10 minute performance) 35%

Component 3 Composition (2 compositions) 25%

Music A Level builds on the skills developed in GCSE Music. Students will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts.

The course has one compulsory area of study (Western classical tradition 1650–1910) and a choice of two further options from a list of six (Pop music; Music for media; Music for theatre; Jazz; Contemporary traditional music; Art music since 1910).

The exam will ask questions related to the set works and also to draw links between the set works and an unfamiliar extract of music.

### **Listening:**

There are so many wonderful Arts channels and recordings on at the moment! Do take some time to explore them. Here are a few examples:

**1. Classic FM's Classical 100** <https://www.abrsm.org/classical100>

Yes - it is aimed at younger listeners – but go on, have you heard every piece on here?! Even better, look for a free score at IMSLP and you can listen and follow the dots at the same time.

**2. Howard Goodall's the Story of Music** 1 hour long episodes (6 in all) are available on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0Y6NPahIDE> here is the first one!

**3. Howard Goodall's Big Bangs**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOuHKlpkOmE&list=PL6rnrWlouE19g\\_SldWbbWm8dW9yAsiMIN](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOuHKlpkOmE&list=PL6rnrWlouE19g_SldWbbWm8dW9yAsiMIN)

Here 50 minute episodes chart the major breakthroughs in specific music terms.

1. Notation
2. Equal Temprement
3. Opera
4. Piano
5. Recorded Sound

For the AQA A level all of these are really really useful!!

**4. Simon Rattle Leaving Home**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Br7aY311Xr8&list=PLUim0aOs4aw5EFwhtkPiaVuwfVUYNI3a3>

These episodes explore music in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Apologies there are subtitles on them – I can't find a link without them!

### **5. LSO Discovery A level seminars**

Various topics here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WH1kAvS\\_9BQ&list=PL-m3LTH7IKURWJsFn4If2z2-ecqT2DFpS](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WH1kAvS_9BQ&list=PL-m3LTH7IKURWJsFn4If2z2-ecqT2DFpS)

### **6. Sound of Cinema**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01gg3gr>

BBC podcasts or videos with many different artists.

I am also currently figuring out a way to get to you some really interesting documentaries by Neil Brand shown on the BBC a few years ago – looking at music from musicals and also cinema! Hope to share via google drive!

**7. BBC Radio 3** look out for Composer of the Week (currently a huge Beethoven resource!)

## **Composing:**



Please see link to booklet

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1lqXQ4YRGeGKfdonRKssAlt1wRn7RmcvC>

This fabulous resource will take you through developing your compositions further. It is well worth spending time developing this now!

## **Performance:**

Make sure you don't neglect your playing during this break. If you are having online lessons with your teacher, then that will obviously keep you going. If you are not, I suggest you do at least some of the tasks below to keep yourself in practice.

Prepare a piece you are already working on and video it. You could then share it with your friends and family. At the beginning of the A level course, we will ask you to play one solo performance. You might find a recorded accompaniment on Youtube for pieces that are very regularly played for grades etc.

Resurrect an older piece (an earlier grade for example) that you really enjoyed. You will be able to play it better now you are a bit more advanced. Listen to some performances of the piece on Spotify/Youtube. What do you like about these performances? Is there anything you can incorporate? Again, you could video your performance.

## Theory

Time to brush up on this! Use the website below (all sections under “lessons”)

<https://www.musictheory.net/>

- The Basics
- Rhythm and Metre
- Scales and Key Signatures
- Intervals – all sections
- Chords, Diatonic Chords
- Chord Progressions

