

Flying Start 2018

Music

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Introduction to the course:

Music continues to be run in three units, like your GCSE course, with assessment in Performing, Composing and Appraising. The two practical units are worth 30% of the marks and the final exam is worth 40%.

Two of the modules in each year are coursework based, and have to be done under controlled conditions.

- **Performing (30%)** – Each student has to record a recital of at least 8 minutes. This can be on any instrument, and can be as a soloist, accompanist, in an ensemble, or as an improviser. This must be recorded in a window from March 1st to May 15th in the year of examination. You can achieve full marks with grade 6 pieces, with extra marks available for more difficult repertoire.
- **Composing (30%)** – You must submit a 6 minute composition folio. One free composition, or set-brief composition, which must be at least 4 minutes, and one technical exercise, lasting at least one minute. A final score and recording must also be submitted.

The exam is a **listening exam (40%)**, which will test knowledge of a number of set works from the board as well as elements of theory and harmony, and listening to unfamiliar music.

The set works are listed later as one of the pieces of work

Tasks

Over the Summer, you are asked to complete 4 tasks. These are designed to prepare you for some of the study you will be doing in September, but also to help you and us find out if there are any areas that you find quite difficult. The suggested time spent on the tasks is as follows:

Task 1 – Set works research – 3 hours

Task 2 – Listening Task – 3 hours

Task 3 – Grade 3/5 theory work – 3 hours

Task 4 – Recital preparation – 1 hour

Task 1 – Set Works Research.

The following is a list of pieces of music that you are going to get to know very well over the next 2 years. Your final exam will be based on them. **This is half of the full list.**

1. Find out when each of these pieces was composed, and produce a list of the set works in chronological order.
2. For each composer / group, create a short summary of their key musical achievements. In other words, what are they best known for? No more than 100 words for each.
 - JS Bach, Cantata, Ein feste Burg, BWV 80: Movements 1, 2, 8
 - Mozart, The Magic Flute: Excerpts from Act I no. 4 (Queen of the Night), 5 (Quintet)
 - Vaughan Williams, On Wenlock Edge: Nos. 1, 3 and 5 (On Wenlock Edge, Is my team ploughing? and Bredon Hill)
 - Vivaldi, Concerto in D minor, Op. 3 No. 11
 - Clara Wieck-Schumann, Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17: movement 1
 - Berlioz, Symphonie Fantastique: Movement I
 - Danny Elfman, Batman Returns: Main theme (Birth of a Penguin Part II), Birth of a Penguin Part I, Rise and fall from grace, and Batman vs the Circus
 - Rachel Portman, The Duchess: The Duchess and End titles, Mistake of your life, Six years later, and Never see your children again
 - Bernard Herrmann, Psycho: Prelude, The City, Marion, The Murder (Shower Scene), The Toys, The Cellar, Discovery, Finale

Task 2 – Listening Task

Choose 4 of the pieces from the list above. Spend approximately 45 minutes on each piece. Listen to the piece several times and write down the things you notice under the following headings:

Structure Tonality/Harmony Instrumentation Texture Melody Rhythm

Alternatively, if you are struggling to think of things to note down, write down some questions.

Task 3 – Theory Task

Complete as much of the Grade 3 & 5 theory papers as you can. Please circle or highlight any questions / words / sections that you do not understand. **Please do not worry if there is a lot that you are not able to do. It is not essential to know all of this information to start the course.** It just means that we will be able to gear the work to you better in September. If you have already got a certificate for Grade 5 theory, please just do the Grade 5 paper, just to check that you have retained the information.

Task 4 – Performing Task

In September we will need to hear you perform some pieces to give you an idea on what you need to work on towards your final recital. Spend some time working on two pieces that reflect your current standard.