

# A-Level Music

This is an exciting and expressive course, channelling creativity and developing an enviable range of academic skills; individuality is encouraged and the focus is very much on the growth and maturity of the students as all-round musicians, preparing them for a wide range of careers and/or pastimes. We have a long history of success in this subject and strong links with universities, music conservatoires and professional musicians.



## Music A-level Gives You Breadth Of Study Across A Variety of Fields

*As well as the emphasis on Performance and Composition, Music A-level allows the opportunity to explore history, context, society, psychology, aesthetics, technology, and politics through the study of iconic composers and pieces of music from the past 500 years.*

### Performance (35%) – in March/April of Year 13

- Solo and/or Ensemble Recital (10-12minutes):

This is recorded in school and externally assessed by AQA examiners.

*Performance can be both solo and within an ensemble, and you are free to specialise in an area of performance that suits you. You will have regular performance opportunities throughout the course, in both a public and private setting to support you in your development as a musician*

### Composition (25%)

- Composition to a brief set by the exam board (2.5 to 3 minutes length)
- Free Composition (2.5 to 3 minutes length)

These are marked externally by AQA examiners.

*Composition is aided by well-established links with professional musicians. Composition masterclasses provide additional insights from experienced composers and your composition can be recorded by professional musicians.*

### Appraising Music (40%) – 2.5-hour exam in May/June

- Listening, Analysis & Context based on **AoS1** and **two** of **AoS2-7**

#### 1. Western classical tradition 1650–1910 (compulsory)

**There are three strands of music represented which cover three key genres:**

- **Baroque: solo concerto**
- **Classical: operas of Mozart**
- **Romantic: the piano music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg**

#### 4. Music for theatre

**The musical output of Kurt Weill, Richard Rodgers, Stephen Sondheim, Claude-Michel Schoenberg and Jason Robert Brown.**

#### 5. Jazz

**From 1920s to the present, including the works of Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker and Miles Davis.**

Music lessons are taught in our purpose-built music department, the Stratford Academy of Music (SAM), which houses six practice rooms, six upright pianos, two baby grand pianos, three digital

pianos, an electric organ, two drum kits, a state-of-the-art music technology studio, a rehearsal space and a teaching room. SAM is open and available for student use from 8:30am-5pm.

There are performance opportunities throughout the year, and in addition to this there are always a host of exciting ventures underway; from tours and public gigs to competitions and recitals.

### **Music A-level at SGGS has a long record of outstanding results and successful students...**

Many of our A-Level students go on to study Music at college, conservatoire or university. However, Music brings together students from a whole range of other subjects and interests and Music A-level students have gone on to study degree subjects at Russell Group Universities as wide range as History, Psychology, Maths, Languages, Economics, Physics, Art and Drama.

Universities and employers value Music A-level for its breadth of skills and production of confident and independent students. As well as music performance, Music A-level can lead to a whole range of creative and inspiring careers.

#### **A few quotes from students:**

“Music is one of the strongest departments at SGGS. It brings so much life to the school, and cultivates all the talent that the students have to offer in such a creative way.”

“The huge variety of music on offer at SGGS means that every single person can be included in some way, whether it be arranging, performing, conducting or producing. The freedom and support you have at SGGS is un-matched.”

“I strongly believe that I wouldn't be where I am today had it not been for the Music department at SGGS. My decision to go to Music College was as a direct result of the opportunities you gave me.”

“Before SGGS I had no plans to study Music, or take it any further than a hobby. It is now my profession. I LOVED Music A-level, and my extra-curricular music experience was the main reason I got in to university.”

### **Music A-level Is Supported By A Wealth Of Extra-Curricular Activities**

Our senior ensembles: Jazz Band, Main School Choir, Chamber Choir and Senior Orchestra are all open to new and existing sixth-formers. These ensembles perform in public venues, take part in national competitions and perform abroad on music tours to locations like Paris, Florence and New York. The next tour will happen whilst YOU are in the sixth-form. There are also smaller specialist groups for Flutes, Saxophones and Strings, these are supported by staff but students are highly motivated and manage many of the rehearsals themselves. We have a large and very talented group of students who involved in music ensembles, with several students also performing at county and national level on their instrument.

In addition to performing, sixth-formers are also encouraged to arrange and compose for ensembles, direct and conduct junior ensembles, or get involved by supporting with warm-ups or accompanying for choirs.

We put on at least one concert per term, and in addition to this there are always a host of exciting ventures underway; from tours and public gigs to competitions and recitals.

We stage a full musical every other year, past shows have included: Sweet Charity, Funny Girl, Little Women, Little Shop of Horrors, West Side Story, A Christmas Carol, The Wiz, Follies, Chorus Line, Avenue Q, The Lion King, and this year, Into The Woods.

Finally, we have a strong team of peripatetic music staff who provide one to one tuition on all orchestral instruments, plus Recorder, Saxophone, Drum Kit, Guitar and Voice.