

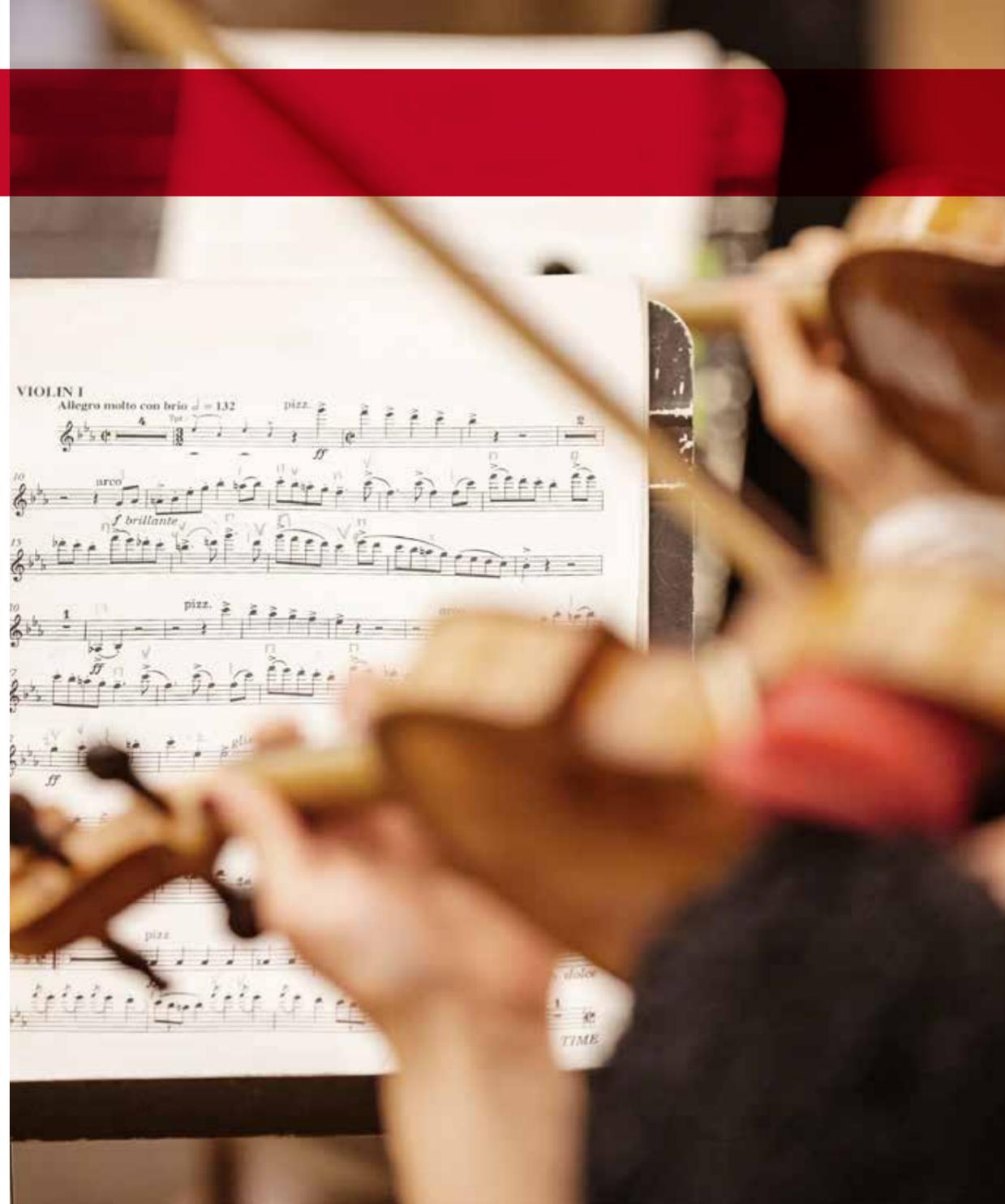
A LEVEL MUSIC

Music opens doors to a whole range of professions. The breadth of intellectual study combined with the level of commitment needed to learn to play an instrument well (or to sing), shows future employers that you are dedicated to success. Many of the country's high flying individuals are musicians, and it is typical in a medical college to have a separate medical students' orchestra, for example.

This course is designed for highly independent and dedicated students. It is important to love music and be open to appreciating music from wider circles. It will allow you to go on and study music or music technology at university or a conservatoire. Much of your private study time will be spent in the department developing your performance and compositional skills, as well as wider listening and essay practice.

COURSE STRUCTURE

YEAR	TITLE	CONTENT	WEIGHTING
1	Performance	Extended performance	N/A
1	Composition	Fulfilling a brief. Baroque harmony and counterpoint)	N/A
1	Analysis	Analysis of set works and historical periods of music	N/A
2	Performing	Extended performance	30%
2	Composition	Free/set brief (40 marks) – set in September. Technique skills (20 marks) – set in April.	30%
3	Analysis	Analysis of set works and historical periods of music	40%



COURSE OUTLINE

The standard level of A level performance is grade 7, therefore, you must be grade 5 (or about to take this examination) on your instrument/voice to be accepted onto the course. All applicants will be required to give a performance audition to ensure that the course is right for you. GCSE music is extremely desirable, but not essential. Grade 5 music theory is highly desirable to support your understanding of analysis during the course.

Compositional skills are developed beyond the basics you have learnt and you will complete two compositions; one free choice/to set brief; one to a set brief testing compositional skills. For this, you will be required to study Baroque harmony and counterpoint.

The listening examination will focus on 18 set works. You are also required to listen to pieces beyond these set works, enabling you to place the music in its historical period, show knowledge of musical elements, context and apply their knowledge and understanding to further works of music.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- GCSE music B (grade point 6) OR by audition and interview if you do not have this qualification
- Grade 5 in an instrument/voice (with the ability to be grade 6 by the end of Year 12)
- Grade 5 music theory is highly desirable
- The ability to work independently
- Student's must commit to extra-curricular activities and show priority to school performances

“ So long as the human spirit thrives on this planet, music... will accompany and sustain it - Aaron Copland ”

PROGRESSION ROUTES

- It is recommended that you take an essay based subject alongside music. History or English literature are good examples.
- You could go on to study music or music technology at university. A music degree is currently the pre-requisite to study a masters in music therapy.
- You may choose to specialise in music history, analysis, composition, editing, performance or sequencing at university level.
- Careers include performer; composer; music editor; conductor; Musical Director in a theatre; ethnomusicologist; therapist; Arts administrator.

RECOMMENDED EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Choir; Chamber choir (audition only); King's Band; school production; swing band (by invitation only); King's School of Rock.
- You must commit to at least one extra curricular group.

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

Big Bangs: The Story of Five Discoveries that Changed Musical History; Howard Goodall
Heroes of Jazz, Blues and Country; R. Crumb

TOP 5 UNIVERSITIES CURRENTLY FOR THIS SUBJECT

1. Oxford
2. Manchester
3. Durham
4. Cambridge
5. Birmingham

UK Conservatoires [Specialist Music Higher Education]

- Royal College of Music
- Royal Academy of Music
- Guildhall School of Music and Drama
- Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
- Royal Northern College of Music
- Birmingham Conservatoire
- Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
- Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
- Leeds College of Music

Both conservatoire and university courses can lead to a Bachelor's degree.

COURSE/QUALIFICATION DETAILS

Outline of Course/Qualification:

Qualification: A level music

Board: Edexcel

Code: 9MU0

Mrs Ffion Cook, Subject Lead for Performing Arts

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