



Sir John Lawes School  
Education for a changing world

---

# Music A Level 2020-22

Miss Gillot, Mr Walton  
Mrs Hastings-Clarke





# Why take Music A Level?

- ♪ Creative – engage with performing and composition of Music.
- ♪ Academic – analytical study of set works and music theory.
- ♪ Recognised by universities as both an academic and a creative subject.
- ♪ Increases confidence through performing element and increases independence and team building skills.
- ♪ Teaches transferable skills such as problem solving and analysis.
- ♪ Lots of opportunities to develop skills further in, and lead, extra curricular





Sir John Lawes School  
Education for a changing world



# Performing

25/35%



- ♪ Continue to develop performance skills as a soloist and ensemble player.
- ♪ Grade 6 standard minimum.
- ♪ Recital: 6-8 minutes (25%) or 10-12 minutes (35%), depending on Option A or Option B.
- ♪ Visiting live examiner.



Sir John Lawes School  
Education for a changing world



# Composing

35/25%



- ♪ Composition Portfolio consisting of 2 or 3 compositions to be submitted in Year 13.
- ♪ 1 composition set by a brief.
- ♪ 1 or 2 free choice.
- ♪ Either 4-6 minutes composition (25%) or 8 – 10 minutes (35%).



# Composition Briefs

There will be a choice of briefs, each one relating to each one of the Areas of Study.



- The Western Classical Tradition (Baroque, Classical and Romantic)
- Rock & Pop
- Musical Theatre
- Jazz
- Into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



# Composition Briefs

## Sample briefs for Western Classical Tradition

**“Compose a piece in rondo form for a local classical radio station. You may compose for any appropriate combination of instruments or voices.”**

**OR**

**“Compose incidental music for a 19<sup>th</sup> century play in a local theatre”.**







# Appraising



40%



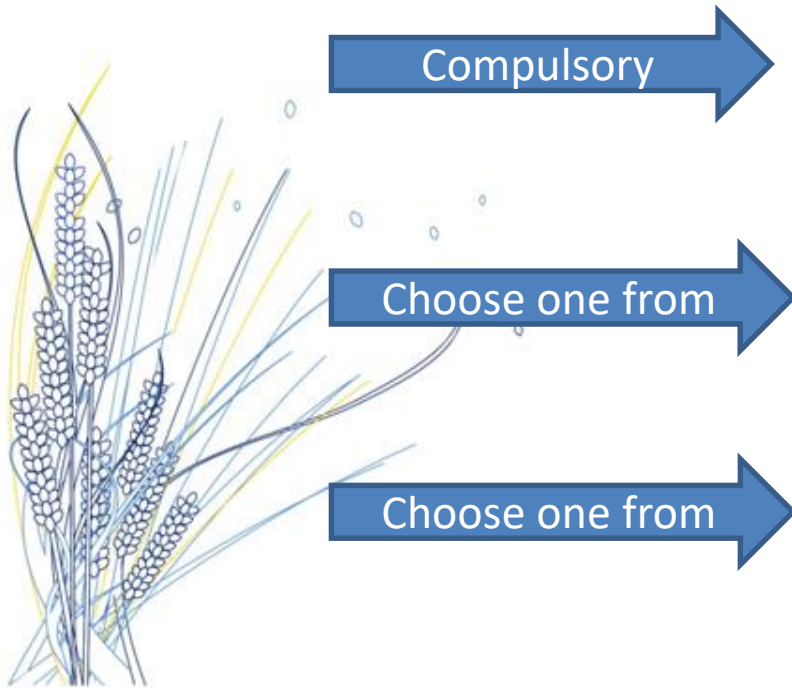
Students will develop knowledge and understanding of:

- **Musical elements** – organisation of pitch, tonality, structure, sonority, texture, tempo, metre and rhythm and dynamics.
- **Musical contexts** – the effect of purpose and intention and the effect of an audience, time and place.
- **Musical language** – major and minor chords, reading and writing of staff notation, using appropriate musical vocabulary.



# Appraising

## 3 Areas of Study



- **Area of Study A:** Western Classical Tradition: “The Development of the Symphony”
- **Area of Study B:** Rock & Pop
- **Area of Study C:** Musical Theatre
- **Area of Study D:** Jazz
- **Area of Study E:** Into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- **Area of Study F:** Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century





Sir John Lawes School  
Education for a changing world

# Area of Study A

## Western Classical Tradition: “Development of the Symphony”



Set work:

**Haydn Symphony no. 104 in D Major “London”**



## Musical Theatre

- Richard Rogers
- Leonard Bernstein
- Stephen Sondheim
- Claude-Michel Schonberg
- Andrew Lloyd Webber
- Stephen Schwartz





Sir John Lawes School  
Education for a changing world

# Area of Study E



## Into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- Impressionism
- Maximalism
- Modernism
- Expressionism
- Serialism
- Neo-Classicism



Set work:  
**Debussy “Nuages” from 3 Nocturnes**



Sir John Lawes School  
Education for a changing world

# Appraising



40%



## The Exam

2 hours 15 minutes

Detailed study of four movements of the **set work symphony** (AOSA) and **set work piece** (AOSE/F).

General knowledge and aural awareness of all three areas of study, including study of specific composers and works.



# Why take Music?

## The students' views

- Love of Music.
- Passion and interest in exploring different musical styles.
- Coursework/creative/practical elements.
- A contrast to other subjects .
- Well regarded by universities.
- Good teacher: student ratio.
- Lots of personalised support in learning.
- Extra-curricular opportunities to lead ensembles and have a significant role in the musical community of the school.
- A strong tradition of good results:  
2019: 100% A-C, 2018: 100% A-C, 2016: 100% A-C,  
2015: 100% A-B ...







Sir John Lawes School  
Education for a changing world

# Why Sir John Lawes for Music?

## The Sir John Lawes Music Faculty



- A strong tradition of Music. It is a highly regarded subject in the school.
- Music has an excellent reputation in the local community.
- Currently have approx. 20 extra-curricular music ensembles to cater for all abilities and musical styles.
- Regular performance opportunities in school, around the community and abroad.
- European Tours to Italy (2020), Spain (2019), Switzerland (2018), Slovenia (2017), Budapest (2016) & Prague (2015)  
This year we have over 100 students going!