



MEMET
(left HGS in 2013)

Currently studying Music composition at Brunel University



DERONNE
(due to leave HGS in 2016)

Is a member of the NYO. Currently applying to study Music at Royal Academy of Music and other conservatoires.



Highbury Grove Music Leaver Students



FRAN
(left HGS in 2015)

Currently studying History at University of Birmingham.



CYAN
(left HGS in 2012)

Graduated from University of Oxford with a 2:1 in Music in 2015. Currently part of Teach First studying for a PGCE in primary

Welcome to Music A level at Highbury Grove School. Choosing to studying Music at A level means you are committing to a fantastically broad and exciting course, which is well-respected by universities and other higher education establishments. The EDEXCEL Music A level course offers you the chance to explore a variety of different musical works in great depth through analysis and aural appreciation.

The Music A level course demands more from students than simply turning up to lessons and completing written homework. In order to truly get the most from the Music A level successful students use it as a springboard to access exciting performance opportunities and creative composition projects. The pieces of music chosen by EDEXCEL for you to study are not limiting as in the second year of the course you are required to listen to a wide range of music around these specific works.

Music A level at Highbury Grove School is also taught by a department at the hub of a fantastic music programme- the Music in Secondary Schools Trust: The Andrew Lloyd Webber Programme. This programme entitles all students in year 7 – 9 to a free musical instrument and specialist provision, GCSE Music students with free instruments and lessons, and A level Music students with free hour-long one-to-one lessons with professional musicians once a week. At Highbury Grove Music is at the heart of school-life with a wide range of performance opportunities on offer including Senior Orchestra, Choir, Senior Brass and woodwind ensembles, VOX, School of Rock and an annual whole school Musical.

A level Music students are musical ambassadors and are expected to attend at least one weekly ensemble rehearsal. Music students also perform regularly in concerts- both inside and outside of school. Our annual rehearsal day with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain is a particular highlight!

The HGS A Level Music Offer:

- ◇ Free 1 hour tuition on your first study instrument/voice
- ◇ Option to study a second instrument/ voice for free
- ◇ Access to a high quality performance programme including orchestras, choirs and bands
- ◇ Opportunity to work with the NYO



Entry Requirements:

Six GCSEs at grade C or above with an A or A* in Music, or the ability to play an instrument to a high level. The Music team will usually want to hold a separate interview with interested students.

The Future Prospects:

Many of our Music alumni have left HGS to study Music at some of the top universities in the country including University of Oxford and University of Leeds. Other students have chosen different musical routes such as applying for conservatoires such as Royal Academy of Music or other further education courses.

There are many careers that lead on explicitly from A level such as:

- ◇ Peripatetic teaching
- ◇ Sound engineer
- ◇ Music teacher
- ◇ Music production

However, universities and employers are frequently impressed by students who have studied A level Music due to the range of skills it can demonstrate such as organisation, reliability, commitment, creativity and self-discipline.

Enrichment Opportunities:

HGS weekly rehearsal schedule is incredibly exciting. We have a very broad range of musical experiences on offer including:

- ◇ Three orchestras
- ◇ Two choirs
- ◇ Rock bands
- ◇ Woodwind and brass ensembles

We also have two Music ICT suites with 34 iMac computers each with Logic X and Sibelius 7.5.

What I will learn on this course:

- ◇ How to analyse pieces of music in detail
- ◇ How to write effectively in 4-part harmony
- ◇ How to compose pieces of music to a given brief
- ◇ How to construct a varied performance programme
- ◇ How to rehearse effectively
- ◇ Excellent performing skills through tutoring from one of our experience professional musicians

Assessment and Examination:

AS level:

Unit 1- Performing (6-8 minute performance) – 30 % of AS

Unit 2- Composing (2 compositions) – 30% of AS

Unit 3- Appraising (studying different pieces of music and taking a 2 hour exam) – 40% of AS

A2 level:

Unit 4- Performing (12 minute performance) – 30 % of A2

Unit 5- Composing (2 compositions) – 30% of A2

Unit 6- Appraising (studying different pieces of music and taking a 2 hour exam) – 40% of A2

Course Outline: A-level Music is a mix of creative, practical, academic and analytical skills. It is suitable for those students who wish to extend the skills acquired at GCSE or for musicians who have achieved grade 5 ABRSM (or equivalent) on their chosen instrument and GCSE grade A.

You will compose, listen to and analyse a wide variety of music from 1600 to the present day. There is a good range of choice to suit the strengths of different candidates, but all candidates will need to be dedicated musicians as performance contributes as a significant part of the course.

There will be opportunities for A-level students to attend events and benefit from the expertise of visiting professional musicians. This course will enable you to improve your music performance skills by working closely with professional musicians and attending numerous workshops. You will perform as a soloist and as part of an ensemble and play a variety of different repertoire.

Facilities:

- ◇ Two Music ICT suites with iMacs (Logic X and Sibelius 7.5)
- ◇ One large orchestral room
- ◇ Three additional rehearsal rooms
- ◇ Eight practice rooms



I feel that I can express my personality and who I am through my music and it has improved my confidence.

Deronne White A2 student