

THE PROGRAMME

If you have a love of music, have been successful at GCSE and enjoy the academic study of music as well as the performing and composing then you will enjoy studying the subject at A Level. There are a variety of practical activities which encourage students to perform as often as possible. This includes a series of concerts throughout the year at the college, and students often organise other performance opportunities.

Appraising Music – Written examination. This component is worth 40% of the A Level marks.

Performance – Solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist/vocalist. A minimum of ten minutes of performance in total is required at A Level. This component is worth 35% of the A Level marks.

Composition – Two compositions with a minimum of four and a half minutes in total is required. This component is worth 25% of the A Level.

Developing and applying the musical knowledge, understanding and skills set out in the specification of this course ensures that students can form a personal and meaningful relationship with music. They will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

WHY STUDY THIS SUBJECT?

Music offers academic rigour through the study of music theory, history and analysis of musical works, while through composition and performance, independent creativity is developed. A Level Music prepares students for further musical study, should they wish to follow this pathway, or provide a solid foundation for musical participation and enjoyment outside of studies, should a different career path be pursued.

As a VI Form musician you will be expected to play a full part in the musical life of the College, playing in ensembles and taking leadership roles where possible. There are many and varied opportunities for performance, both in and out of College and Carmel musicians are also encouraged to become part of the Durham Music Service ensembles.

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

Studying Music opens the doors to all kinds of careers – and not just the obvious ones like performing, composing and teaching. ‘The music industry’ can mean anything from working for a record label; broadcasting; selling music for films, TV and advertising; venue or festival management; music journalism; copyright law; music therapy and countless other varied and exciting roles. Former music students find themselves thriving in roles in the business, legal, medical, academic and financial fields.

Music is also a well-respected academic subject for those students wishing to pursue other degree courses at University level.

