

This course is about making and listening to music. It covers performing, composing and listening in a wide variety of musical styles – classical music, popular music and world music.

- Paper 1 – Performing (30%) You will perform one piece as a soloist and one piece as part of an ensemble. Performances may take place at any time during the course.
- Paper 2 – Composing (30%) This is entirely coursework. During the course we look at various composition techniques which are followed up in practice. Two pieces of music are finally selected from these composition projects, lasting at least three minutes in total, which will be assessed.
- Paper 3 – Listening and Appraising (40%) You will listen to a wide variety of music and learn more about how and why it was written and performed.

You will encounter music from four different areas of study:

1. Structure in Western Classical Music 1600–1899
2. New directions in Western Classical Music — 1900 to the present day.
3. Popular music in context.
4. Rhythms, scales and modes in music from around the world.

This area of the subject is assessed by a written listening examination lasting 1 hour 30 minutes in the Summer of the Upper 5 year.

It is an advantage (but not essential) to have some keyboard skills. To be able to obtain higher grades for the performing paper you will need to perform pieces of approximately Grade 4 standard by the Spring term of the Upper 5.