



Music Tutor Online



A-Level Music

Cambridge International AS & A Level Music encourages learners to study a variety of music and build on their individual interests. Learners develop the ability to make connections between the musical activities of listening, composing and performing and the variety of music around the world. Teachers have the flexibility to structure the Cambridge AS & A Level Music syllabus so that the course supports and develops learners' musical experience, interests and abilities.

While following a course based on this syllabus it is important for learners to be supported in learning to listen, compose and perform with greater understanding and purpose. These skills are important for musicians, and will help to equip candidates to study music at a higher level and/or to enjoy music as lifelong learners, including as educated listeners.

At AS Level, learners focus on listening, composing and performing. For listening, they study set works. These are chosen to support learners in developing their listening skills and understanding of music, including compositional techniques and performance practice. They learn to work with Western notation. Learners also listen to and explore other music of their choice and identify and learn to communicate connections across a wide variety of music. Learners are also encouraged to build on their own personal musical interests as they study composing and performing.

Through this, they learn to develop their own range of compositions and performance program. At A Level, learners have the opportunity to build on their AS Level studies. They choose two areas of interest from composing, performing and investigating music. Learners have the opportunity to develop their musical

knowledge, skills and understanding and to communicate these through music and academic writing off more depth.

Throughout the course, learners are encouraged to analyse and evaluate and to present work which is underpinned by practical and theoretical understanding. By learning to listen attentively and with purpose, to create and perform, and present understanding of music through academic writing, learners are developing transferable skills. These will help equip them for higher education or employment.

All candidates take:

Paper 1

Listening 100 marks

There are three sections in the Listening paper:

A: Compositional Techniques and Performance Practice

B: Understanding Music

C: Connecting Music

Externally assessed 60% of the AS Level 30% of the A Level

And:

Component 2

Practical Music Coursework 100 marks

There are two compulsory elements: performing and composing.

Candidates must complete:

- 6-10 minute performance
- two contrasting compositions, 1-2 minutes each

Internally assessed and externally moderated. 40% of the AS Level
20% of the A Level

A Level candidates take two of either:

Component 3

Extended Performance Coursework 100 marks

There are two parts to Extended Performance:

- 15-20 minute performance
- 1000-1500-word research report Externally assessed
25% of the A Level

or:

Component 4

Extended Composition Coursework 100 marks

There are two parts to Extended Composition:

- 6-8 minute composition
- 1000-1500-word research report Externally assessed
25% of the A Level

or:

Component 5

Investigating Music Coursework 100 marks

There are two parts to Investigating Music:

- 2500-3000-word essay
- up to 500-word reflective statement Externally assessed
25% of the A Level