

Music Performing Advanced Higher

Why take this course?

The Course has an integrated approach to learning and includes a mixture of practical learning, and related understanding of music. In the course you will draw upon your understanding of music styles and concepts as you experiment with using these in creative ways when performing and creating music.

To succeed in this course, you need...

You need to have developed musical skills in two instruments sufficient to tackle learning pieces at ABRSM Grade 5. Candidates for Advanced Higher would normally be expected to have a good pass in Higher Music.

Course Structure and Content (subject to change by SQA).

The course is delivered in three areas:

Music: Performing Skills (Advanced Higher)

You will develop performing skills in two selected instruments, or on one selected instrument and voice. You will perform challenging level-specific music with sufficient accuracy and will maintain the musical flow realising the composers' intentions. You will, through regular practice and critical reflection and evaluation, develop your technical and musical performing skills

Music: Composing Skills (Advanced Higher)

You will experiment with, and creatively use, complex compositional methods and music concepts to realise your intentions when creating original music. You will critically reflect on and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of your creative and musical choices and decisions. You will analyse how musicians and composers create music in different ways and how music styles are shaped by social and cultural influences.

Understanding & Analysing Music (Advanced Higher)

Through listening you will develop detailed knowledge and understanding of a range of complex music concepts, and music literacy. You will identify and distinguish the key features of specific music styles and recognise level-specific music concepts in excerpts of music, and music signs and symbols in notated music.

Course Assessment

Component 1: Performance (50%)

The performance time on either of the two selected instruments, or instrument and voice, must be a minimum of six minutes within the overall eighteen minute programme. You should perform a minimum of two contrasting pieces of music on each of the two selected instruments, or instrument and voice.

Marks will be awarded for melodic accuracy/intonation, rhythmic accuracy, maintaining the tempo and flow of the music, demonstrating musicality through mood and character and tone and dynamics.

Component 2 question paper (35%)

The purpose of the question paper is to test the candidates' knowledge and understanding of music concepts and music literacy.

Component 3: Composition (15%)

Similar to Higher, you will write, record and evaluate your music.

Where might this course take me?

Progression from this course would be to a Music degree. Studying Music also develops a range of skills including the confidence to perform in front of an audience and self-discipline in practice, which are of benefit in study, work and life.