Music A Level Transition Work

Hi Music students! Although we can’t see you in person, we do still have a few bits that you can be working on in the coming weeks to help you to get prepared for your A Level studies.

1. This is a fantastic opportunity to improve your theory skills. There are many sites online which have some great info and exercise or you can always order an ABRSM book to work through. It is crucial that you are able to confidently read notation in both treble and bass clef to speed up score analysis.

We would suggest visiting [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net) and working your way through some of the lessons. They range from the absolute fundamentals up to some more advanced features such as the use of Neapolitan Chords. Another fantastic website is <https://www.teoria.com/> which has some more advanced theoretical features to brush up on such as use of Augmented 6th chords or tritone substitution.

2. The Baroque Concerto – This is part of the compulsory analysis section so is a great place to start some of your listening work. We suggest the following:  
a) Research the instrumental music of Purcell, Vivaldi and Bach. Make some notes and listen to as many examples as you can. There is a link to a Spotify playlist for A Level Music at the bottom of these instructions and there is a Listening Journal for you to complete as you go.

b) Choose one movement from a concerto ( not the ones we will be studying - check the spec on AQA) by any of the above composers and prepare a presentation for the new group. This should include some background information, as much analysis as possible and characteristics of the composer plus some audio.

3. You will also get to study 2 genres that we can chose as a group in September. We have previously looked at genres including Musical Theatre, Film Music and Jazz. There are some great examples of these in the Spotify playlist so please make sure you’re listening to a wide range of musical examples and adding these to your listening journal. Taking notes on each musical element is excellent practice and a really good way to focus in or the details of the music.

We are likely to start with Musical Theatre next year so becoming familiar with composers such as Jason Robert Brown, Claude-Michel Schonberg and Stephen Sondheim will really help.

4. To improve your listening skills, when you visit [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net) you will see there is a tab labelled ‘Exercises’ at the top. Scroll down to the tests called Interval Ear Tests and Chord Ear Tests. These are excellent exercises to get good at. You can click on the settings icon (small cog) in the top right corner to make these exercises more or less challenging as you continue your practice.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you all soon!

The Music Department