

Studying music at Spalding Grammar School

The A level course follows the specification of the WJEC Examining Board. The course aims to extend the three skills of *Performing, Composing and Appraising*.

Candidates sit their AS units in term 5 of their Year 12 and can then go on to take a full A Level at the end of Year 13. Prospective candidates should ideally have a grade B or above at GCSE and are grade 5 standard in music at the beginning of the course. Other qualifications and experience will be considered.

All students who study music at A level are expected to take part in a variety of enrichment activities. These include Brass Ensemble, Chamber Choir, Concert Band, Early Music Group, Rhythm & Blues Band and String Group. Students are also encouraged to audition for the instrumental and vocal groups offered by the County Music Service.

Instrumental and vocal tuition is available in school to support the performance units of the course. In the summer term, information about music tuition, including fees, is sent out to students who have been offered a place to join the sixth form at Spalding Grammar School.

AS MUSIC

MU1 30% Performing

- Solo and/or ensemble recital of 8 – 10 minutes assessed by a visiting examiner in Term 5.

MU2 30% Composing

- Candidates are to submit two contrasting compositions lasting a total playing time of 4-8 minutes. One composition needs to reflect the music studied from list A (see below)

MU3 40% Appraising

- Two written tests focussing on the following areas of study lasting 2 hours:-

List A – Orchestral music	List B – Jazz, rock and pop
1. J.S.Bach: <i>Brandenburg No.2, 1st movt</i>	1. Duke Ellington: <i>Black and Tan Fantasy, Take the A-Train</i>
2. Beethoven: <i>Symphony No 5 in C minor, 1st movt</i>	2. The Beatles: <i>Yesterday, Hey Jude</i>
3. Mendelssohn: <i>Violin Concerto, 1st movt</i>	3. Queen: <i>Bohemian Rhapsody, Killer Queen</i>

A2 MUSIC

MU4 30% Performing

- Solo recital of approximately 12 minutes assessed by a visiting examiner in term 5.

MU5 30% Composing

- Two compositions based on different commissions (total playing time 6-10 minutes)

MU6 40% Appraising

- Area of Study 3: Music in the 20th & 21st Century (*Impressionism, Nationalism, Neo-Classicism, Expressionism, Minimalism and Jazz*)

Part 1 Aural and Stylistic Perception (¾ hour listening examination)

Part 2 Historical and Analytical Study (1½ hours listening/written examination)

- Candidates will study Ravel's *Piano Concerto in G major* and place the work within a broader musical context.

Expectations

- Well motivated
- Good attendance
- Full participation in school events including concerts
- Involvement in a wide range of ensembles
- Ability to read traditional notation and other forms of notation
- Have regular tuition on your chosen instrument and/or voice
- Member of chamber choir

Student comments:

“Taking music made me a more well rounded musician, getting experience performing and extra help with all the theory. Although most importantly the whole group of us have some great memories. Not only did I visit Speyer and Berlin with the choir but also performed at many school events and went on trips to the Albert Hall in London to many musical concerts.”

James

“My experience of studying music at SGS, particularly from A level, was great. I wasn't the best at music theory or performance in the beginning but since I took on studying music at A level I felt I needed to improve on these areas. With help from my music teachers, my instrument tutor and my peers, I left the school with a much better understanding of the music we had studied, and music in general.”

Dan

“I thoroughly enjoyed my time at on the Music A level course. The opportunities that arose were fantastic. I would advise anyone with a passion for music to get involved with the course as it covers all aspects of music.”

Max

For further information about studying music at Spalding Grammar School please contact the department via e-mail: music@spaldinggrammar.lincs.sch.uk

sgsmusic.org.uk