

Music A Level (Eduquas)

Getting Ready for Music

As you know, the A level Music course very much builds on the work that you have covered at GCSE. Here are some activities which should help you to retain what you already know and possibly stretch your knowledge over the summer break

Follow this [link](#) to a short quiz on the Classic FM website which covers musical elements that should be familiar to you. If they are not, then please do some quick research on the internet to fill the gaps in your knowledge.

The history of the Symphony forms the backbone to our study of classical music at A level. Here is a [link](#) to a really good resource from another school which breaks down the Classical and Romantic periods in to sub sections and give you lots of shorts examples to listen to. The San Francisco Symphony also have a really good [Explore the Music](#) section on their website. It's well worth spending some time looking at.

The earliest style of jazz from the 1920s is known as New Orleans jazz or Dixieland. It generally has a swung rhythm in a fast tempo. Bands consisted of frontline soloists (e.g. cornet, clarinet and trombone) who would improvise collectively as well as individually, supported by a rhythm section of upright bass, piano (or banjo) and drums. Do some research on the following please:

Louis Armstrong

King Oliver

Jelly Roll Morton

NORK

It is vital that you have a solid understanding of keys and chords as they will be vital to both your composition and analytical work. Once again here is a [link](#) to a really useful Quick Reference Sheet covering these two fundamental musical elements. Read it carefully and be prepared to ask if there is anything that you would like clarified once we meet next year.

Don't forget to keep practising your instrument over the coming months. There are lots of opportunities to perform in the 6th form and our most successful musicians grab these with both hands.

Finally, listen to as much music as you possibly can. Try something a bit different to your normal fare to help you broaden your horizons. Lots of musicians are streaming live performances at the moment. Miss Law is constructing one at Coremi at the moment in collaboration with Saffron Hall, have a look at it [here](#). Finally, there is always [BBC Radio 3](#) which is a fantastic resource for exploring music.

Any questions, please contact Miss Law: claw@swchs.net

You may also wish to follow us on Twitter: [@swchsMusicDept](https://twitter.com/swchsMusicDept)

