



# Getting ready for A LEVEL MUSIC



Thinking of studying Music at A Level next year? Here are some ideas to get ready for the course.

## Harmony

During your A Level you will get to know lots of music. The best (and most enjoyable!) way to do this is to play or sing. Try singing along to one of the videos below, picking a part and sight-singing along. Try one of the middle or bass parts for an extra challenge!

- [Byrd: Mass for three voices](#)
- [Sondheim: Worst pies in London \(Score\)](#)
- [Allegri: Miserere](#)
- [Tallis: If ye love me](#)



*Sixth form musicians take a leading role in our ensembles, performing onstage at Saffron Hall throughout the year, as well as other local venues.*

## Theory

You will find it very useful to dust off your Grade 5 Theory skills. The lessons and exercises at [MusicTheory.net](https://www.musictheory.net) are an ideal place to start. For listening skills, try the exercises at [Teoria.com](https://www.teoria.com), including the sight-singing, rhythmic and melodic dictation, and chord identification. The more confident you are with these skills, the more you will get out of our analysis and composition lessons.

## Performance

At the start of Year 12 you will be asked to do a short performance for your teachers and start the process of preparing a formal recital. So don't leave your instrument to gather dust over the summer break! Start thinking about repertoire for your end of Year 12 recital. In Year 13, the full recital will be either 12 or 8 minutes long, depending on what route you choose.



*Senior Jazz Band in a masterclass with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, June 2022*



*Music Tour to Lake Garda, July 2019*

## History

Area of Study A covers the development of the 'Western Classical Tradition'. A music teacher from another school has written this [short history of music](#) to help new students starting the A Level course. During lessons we will also refer to these excellent pages on the [development of the symphony](#), a key topic in the exam. The video series '[Keeping Score](#)' is another excellent source for the development of the symphony.

