

# A-Level Music

at Hereford Sixth Form College

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*If you are considering a possible career in music, or if you particularly talented, this is the course for you*

## The Course

The A-Level Music course is designed both to prepare students for the best university and conservatoire music courses and also for those students who are particularly interested in music. Many students start college not knowing exactly what they want to do in the future, but if you have a talent for music, the A-Level Music course will prepare you to see the possibility of a career in music as a real and exciting option.

**For the vast majority of university music courses, A-Level Music is a requirement.**

## Past Students

It is not unusual for A-Level Music students to be offered places at every single university or conservatoire that they apply for. Past students have continued their studies at institutions, such as: Oxford and Cambridge Universities; Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama; Birmingham Conservatoire; Bristol University; Manchester University; Cardiff University; and many other top Russell Group Universities.

## Past Results

Our music results are consistently in the top 5% of the country and almost every student in the past five years has achieved an A\*-B grade.

## Course Ethos

We believe that, regardless of your starting point, every student should find something exciting and challenging every day, so that you are able to become the best possible musician by the end of your time at college. Music students tend to be extremely driven and we work hard to ensure that you have an opportunity to be the best musician that you can be and to have the best opportunities to gain places on the most competitive university and conservatoire courses.

## How will you study?

As an A-Level Music student, in addition to the standard four lectures a week, you will have access to:

- Individual lessons with a professional performance tutor to prepare for the A-Level performing unit
- Music Theory lessons, leading to Grade 8 (subject to a small contribution of £75/year)
- Music coaching workshops (in small groups)

*These sessions will support you with any particularly challenging work, or take you well beyond the A-Level curriculum, as appropriate.*

- Trips to prestigious national concert halls to meet some of the best professional musicians
- Visits to university music departments
- Workshops and masterclasses
- Optional private lessons, such as *Grade 8 Practical Musicianship*
- Performances in a regular recital series
- Membership in at least one college ensemble

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## **Can anyone study A-Level Music?**

Anyone can study A-Level Music; however, to begin the course, you need to have passed at least Grade 4 on your Instrument and Grade 4 Music Theory. If you have yet to take the Grade 4 Music Theory exam, there are still options. Please read the details enclosed in this pack for more information about how we can work with you.

To study A-Level Music at Hereford Sixth Form College you must have passed at least Grade 4 on your instrument (including voice) and Grade 4 Music Theory by the Summer Term before you join the college. In the unlikely event that you have not passed Grade 4 Theory, we will offer an entrance examination when you arrive at the college. This will be a Grade 4 Music Theory paper. If you are unsuccessful at this stage, we will offer you Music Theory lessons (1 hour/week) on a Wednesday afternoon for your first year so that you are able to start A-Level Music in the second year. Students in this position often choose to request to stay at the college for an extra year to complete the A-Level. In previous years, some of these three-year students have become some of our best musicians, so this will in no way put you at a disadvantage when competing for university music places.

## **Preparing for Grade 4 Theory**

If you would like assistance in preparing for the Music Theory examinations and do not have an existing teacher who can help, we may be able to put you in touch with a private tutor. Please contact us at [music@hereford.ac.uk](mailto:music@hereford.ac.uk) for more information. We have also enclosed details of an intensive residential course that some students have found helpful in the past. This course is not affiliated with the college but the feedback from past students has been high.

## **Preparing for Grade 4 on your instrument (or voice)**

If you have yet to pass Grade 4 on your instrument, we will usually need to arrange an individually tailored foundation programme, on a private basis, for you during the first year so that you are ready to start AS Music in your second year. On rare occasions (such as overseas applicants) where students are demonstrably well above the Grade 4 prerequisite but have not yet taken a grade exam, we may be able to provisionally accept you on the course following an internal grade assessment by one of our performance tutors. If you think this may apply to you, please contact us by email as soon as possible to discuss whether you would qualify for an assessment.

## **What if I am beyond the entry requirements?**

If you are currently working towards the higher grades in music theory or on your instrument/voice, you may benefit from one of the Music Scholarship Training Programmes. These programmes are designed to challenge the most able musicians and allow you to specialise in choral, instrumental or academic music training. These programmes operate entirely independently from the A-Level Music course and you can apply, whether or not you are intending to study Music as an A-Level.

Wherever you are in your preparation, we will be happy to support you. Please contact us, if there is anything else we can do to support you in your preparation. We look forward to meeting you.

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## What if I need help?

If you would like assistance in preparing for the Music Theory examinations and do not have an existing teacher who can help, we may be able to put you in touch with a private tutor. Please contact us at [music@hereford.ac.uk](mailto:music@hereford.ac.uk) for more information. We have also included details below of an intensive residential course that some students have found helpful in the past. This course is not affiliated with the college but the feedback from past students has been good.

If you have yet to pass Grade 4 on your instrument, we will usually need to arrange an individually tailored private foundation programme for you during the first year so that you are ready to start AS Music in your second year. On rare occasions where students are demonstrably well above the Grade 4 prerequisite but have not yet taken a grade exam, we may be able to provisionally accept you on the course following an internal grade assessment by one of our performance staff. If you think this may apply to you, please contact us by email to discuss whether you would qualify for an assessment.

Wherever you are in your preparation, we will be happy to support you. Please contact us, if there is anything else we can do to support you in your preparation. We look forward to meeting you next term.

## **Beauchamp House International Holiday Music Courses 2016 Programme**

### **Grade 5 Theory Residential Course**

14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at Dene Magna School, Mitcheldean, Glos. GL17 0DU. Tel: 01452 385162

*NB – This course is not affiliated with Hereford Sixth Form College*

“This course proves popular every year with those students who are keen to achieve Grade 5 theory so that they can progress with their practical music examinations. Our experienced tutors have an excellent reputation for being able to coach students with little knowledge of theory to a standard where they are able to take - and pass - their Grade 5 Theory examination. We cannot promise that those who come with no background of theory can reach Grade 5 in the week but they will be guaranteed to progress by at least 2 grades. During the week students are helped to make the connection between theory, aural and practical music-making, all done in a stimulating and fun way.”

