



# ST. EDWARD'S OXFORD

## MUSIC & MUSIC TECHNOLOGY A LEVEL & IB

### Why choose Sixth Form Music?

- ✓ Constantly evolving as a subject, inspiring creativity and expression through practical work and written analysis
- ✓ Covers a wide range of topics, genres and historical contexts
- ✓ Links listening, performing and composing, building on skills developed in instrumental lessons and at GCSE
- ✓ Ideal for students who are interested in all aspects of music-making
- ✓ A highly respected course that acts as excellent preparation for degrees (music or otherwise) at top universities across the world

### What are the expectations of pupils?

You should have a keen interest in a range of musical genres and be experienced in performance and composition.

Most pupils will have taken Music at GCSE, but those whose experience lies mainly in practical playing will not be disadvantaged, providing their knowledge of music theory and notation is secure. Although no practical grades are required, Sixth Form musicians are expected to perform at around Grade 7 standard on at least one instrument by the time they reach the Upper Sixth.

Theory Club (held at lunchtime each Wednesday) provides an opportunity to consolidate and extend your understanding of music theory, equipping you with the necessary skills to tackle the Appraising and Composition components.

For Music Technology, most pupils will have experience of Logic Pro, Ableton or other related recording software, perhaps from composing their own music in the years preceding Sixth Form. GCSE Physics and Mathematics are also desirable.

### Where will I learn?

Opened in 2017, the £7m Ogston Music School houses all the facilities any musician could wish for:

- ✓ Over 20 practice rooms, seven ensemble rooms, a rock room and the Western Recital Room

- ✓ The Fenton Recording Studio, containing the latest software and technology (Sibelius, Logic Pro, Ableton Live) for composition and performance
- ✓ The Ferguson Library, a dedicated space open every day for independent work and quiet research
- ✓ The new Olivier Hall, providing an outstanding venue for concerts, rehearsals and recordings

### Why choose Music?

Music is a highly regarded subject that helps develop numerous transferable skills, popular with admissions tutors at leading universities across the UK and beyond. It is among the most popular A Level choices for successful applicants in any subject to Oxford and Cambridge. As well as in the arts, possible future careers include publishing, advertising, the civil service and law.

*If Music is a subject that you are interested in, or are even slightly considering, I would definitely say go for it – It's by far the lesson I look forward to most and choosing it is honestly one of the best decisions I ever made!*

**Tiggy Jones**

UVI A Level and Oxford University Music candidate

## A Level Music

A Level Music affords you the opportunity to develop and apply musical knowledge. The course encourages you to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, in turn allowing you to consolidate and expand upon strengths and interests personal to you.

The course is split into three strands: **appraising**, **performance** and **composition**.

In preparation for the written exam, you study a varied curriculum encompassing three specific areas of study: Western Classical Tradition 1650 – 1910 (Mozart, Chopin, Brahms, Grieg); Music for Theatre (Richard Rodgers, Stephen Sondheim, Claude-Michel Schonberg) and Art Music since 1910 (Shostakovich, Messiaen, Reich, MacMillan)

<u>Appraising Music (Exam)</u>	40%
• Assesses listening, analysis and contextual understanding of familiar and unfamiliar works	
• Includes short listening questions and dictation task, as well as one 30 mark essay	
<u>Performance</u>	35%
• Solo and optional ensemble performance of at least 10 minutes, usually of at least Grade 7 standard	
<u>Composition</u>	25%
• One composition to a brief (usually Bach Chorale) and one free composition, together lasting at least 4½ minutes	

## A Level Music Technology

A Level Music Technology (Edexcel) affords you the opportunity to develop and apply musical knowledge, encouraging you to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts. The course is split into four strands: **recording**, **composition**, **analysis** and **production**.

### 1. Recording – Coursework, 20%

A scientific and creative component that teaches appropriate recording and mixing techniques

### 2. Technology-based Composition – Coursework, 20%

A technical and creative component that develops your practical skills on a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) such as Logic Pro or Ableton

### 3. Listening and Analysing – Exam (1½ hours), 25%

A theoretical component that improves your listening skills, develops your technical knowledge

### 4. Producing and Analysing – Exam (2¼ hours), 35%

A theoretical and practical component that develops your DAW skills

## IB Music

The IB course is split into three strands: **exploring**, **experimenting** and **presenting**, as well as a **contemporary music-maker project** for Higher Level students.

### Exploring Music in Context 30% (SL) / 20% (HL)

- Students select samples of written work for a portfolio submission

### Experimenting with Music 30% (SL) / 20% (HL)

- Students submit an experimentation report evidencing musical processes in creating and performing

### Presenting Music 40% (SL) / 30% (HL)

- Students submit a collection of works demonstrating engagement with diverse musical material

### Contemporary Music-Maker 30% (HL only)

- Students submit a continuous multimedia presentation documenting a real-life arts management project

### 1. Exploring Music – Coursework

Written analysis and practical exercises in creating and performing

### 2. Experimenting with Music – Coursework

Written report and practical evidence of the experimentation process

### 3. Presenting Music – Coursework

Performance and composition, supported by programme notes and commentaries

