

Yr11 – Yr12 A Level Transition work

- **Wider Listening**

- As an introduction to A Level music, I would like you to have a look through the recommended 'wider listening list' for Area of Study A. Using the Listening Log sheet, I would like you to listen to at least 6 pieces (or movements from the symphonies) from the list, completing all the information required in the listening log (either electronically or hand written).
- As well as listening to the suggested works, I would also like you to create your own listening log which shows your own musical tastes and preferences. I want to know about the music that you like to listen to and play and the different genres of music that you prefer. Make a log of your favourite songs and styles that you like to listen to and tell me what it is that you enjoy about that music so much!
- We study and analyse/annotate 2 symphonies throughout the 2 year course:
 - Haydn's Symphony No. 104 and
 - Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 (Italian)
- Find them both on YouTube and have a listen to them both to become familiar with them.

- **Key Terminology**

- As well as this, look through the key terminology list. These key words will form the basis of the type of language that must be used in answering exam questions. Make a start on completing definitions for the words, focusing on key words that are new to you and that you have not used at GCSE level, creating a glossary of A Level Music words.

- **Keys & Key Signatures**

- In an extension from GCSE, knowledge of **all** the keys and key signatures, including relative minors, is essential to help with music analysis. Learn all the key signatures, still including all those learnt at GCSE, ready to start detailed analysis of works.

- **Performance Practice**

- For your A Level you will be required to perform a recital in front of a visiting examiner in March of Year 13. The standard that you must be by that point is Grade 6 minimum. In order to start thinking about your recital, I would like you to prepare your favourite piece on your instrument ready to perform to the group when we return to school. Remember to rehearse regularly throughout the period that you are not at school as this has huge benefits not only on your performance skills but on your listening skills also.

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Work from SHS to complete

1. **Compose** a new piece of music for your own instrument or voice. How can you show the main features of your instrument/voice. This can be in any style that you choose and could be for solo instrument/voice, or instrument/voice with an accompaniment. Use any software which is available to you, such as Musescore or Garageband.
2. Who inspires you as a musician? Is it a composer, songwriter, performer? Someone who plays the same instrument as you? Find out about them and create a biography – include links to their work. What can you learn from them?
3. Create a Spotify playlist for a specific musical style, composer, or musical period. You can only include 10 tracks. What would your choices be? Create a short explanation of why you've chosen each track. Here are some musical styles you could explore: Rock, Jazz, The Baroque period, The Classical period, The Romantic period, 20th Century 'Classical' music, 21st Century 'Classical' music.
4. Brush up your musical theory. Use www.musictheory.net/lessons and have a look at the different sections on different types of chords.