

A Level Music

Summer Independent Learning - Year 11-12

Task 1 - Performance

Polish up a piece you are already working on and video it. You could then share it with your friends and family. You can even send it to me at mark.abbott@nclt.ac.uk if you want.

You might find a recorded accompaniment on Youtube for pieces that are very regularly played for grades etc.

Resurrect an older piece that you really enjoyed. You will be able to play it better now you are a bit more advanced. Listen to some performances of the piece on Apple Music/Spotify/Youtube. What do you like about these performances?

Is there anything you can incorporate. Again, video or record your performance. Look at the graded lists for the level at which you are currently playing. Listen to the pieces and choose one to learn from scratch. You can use recorded performances to help you learn the piece and decide how to play it. This piece must be of grade 5 standard or more.

The important thing to remember is that it is better to play an easier piece well, than a more difficult piece poorly. Make sure you perform it musically, paying attention to dynamics, tempo markings and phrasing.

You must perform this piece in front of your teacher during the first two weeks of college. You can use a backing track if you wish.

Task 2 - Music Theory

When we start the A level course we begin reviewing basic theory through some simple composition tasks. We will go over keys, triads, dissonance etc. but we do presume some basic knowledge. On the following (external) page you should be familiar with the topics in the following sections:

Musictheory.net

- *The Basics* – all sections
- *Rhythm and Metre* – all sections
- *Scales and Key Signatures* – all sections
- *Intervals* – all sections
- The first two lessons from *Chords, Diatonic Chords* and the first from *Chord Progressions* would be a bonus

Please make sure you have written comprehensive notes about all of these areas. You can download manuscript paper from here:

http://www.musictheory.org.uk/manuscript_paper.php

There are tests to help you grasp key signatures, scales etc here:

<https://www.musictheory.net/exercises>

You will be tested on these areas of music theory when you come to college, so it is vital that you fully understand and learn this material.

Task 3 - The Symphony

Watch the following videos and make detailed notes from them.

- Good basic introduction to the symphony by Howard Goodall from the BBC
- A much longer video on the symphony by Howard Goodall (this is the first of a series)

Now research more into the symphony and Answer the following in detail:

1. What is a symphony?
2. How many movements does it generally have?
3. Describe the typical features of each movement and explain the typical structures they use. Diagrams may help.

Task 4 - Haydn's Symphony 104 "London"

Print a copy of the score of Haydn's London Symphony (Movement 1 only) from the link below:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Symphony_No.104_in_D_major%2C_Hob.I:104_\(Haydn%2C_Joseph\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Symphony_No.104_in_D_major%2C_Hob.I:104_(Haydn%2C_Joseph))

Follow the score and listen to the music using the link below. This is one of the set works and you must know it well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OitPLlowJ70&list=PLViZJfW4UpefGYPxlmdmCassOqgvqrSWks&index=3&t=1026s>