



## A level Music

### Who is this course for?

Enthusiastic musicians who wish to study music as a practical and academic discipline. The course is ideal for students wishing to study at music college, university or enter the profession as a performer, teacher or academic. Wyke's course is designed to provide opportunities for students to enjoy individual and collaborative music making where music is fun!

### What are the entry criteria

- . In order to begin Music you must
  - Have attained a minimum of grade 5 on your instrument (students who have not taken the grade 5 exam but who believe they have attained this level will need to audition)
  - Be able to read and write traditional musical notation fluently (treble and bass clefs)
  - Be willing to take Grade 5 Theory if you do not already have the qualification.

It is not necessary to have GCSE Music.

## The Music department at Wyke Sixth Form College

The Music Department wishes to imbue students with a love of music and to educate and touch the soul through the study of music as a practical and academic discipline; to cultivate an ethos of hard work, high standards and high expectations from both staff and students; to enable students to fulfil their musical potential in concert performances, academic study and public examinations through the thorough preparation and delivery of all lessons and rehearsals; for students to experience an excellent rapport with music staff and to enjoy their musical studies; for students to experience a pleasant, disciplined and happy learning environment; for students to consider themselves improved musicians as a result of their learning at Wyke.

- **Gareth Reaks: Director of Music**

Teacher of A level Music

Director of all music making including rehearsals and concerts

Co-ordinator of instrumental teaching

Co-ordinator of all musical activities and departmental administration

- **Adam Hembrough: Teacher of Music Technology**

Teacher of AS/A2 Music Technology  
Co-ordinator of and supervisor for Extended Project Qualification  
Music Department Technician

- The Music Department is supported by the **Hull Music Service** which provides instrumental tuition to Wyke students and prepares them for ABRSM, Trinity and Guildhall examinations as appropriate.

## Exam Board

AQA

## Course Details

### AS

1. Listening, History and Analysis – 90 minutes (15%). Externally assessed
  - Test of aural perception and recognition of compositional detail (30 mins)
  - Set Work: Beethoven Symphony No.1. One essay from a choice of two
  - Set topic: Baroque Choral Music. One essay from a choice of two.
2. Harmony and Counterpoint (15%). Externally assessed
  - Harmonisation of a given melody employing the techniques of western harmony
  - Two-part counterpoint to a given keyboard accompaniment. (Supervised coursework)
3. Performance Recital (20%). Internally assessed
  - Solo recital (5-8 minutes)
  - Solo recital on a second instrument or ensemble performance (5-8 minutes)

### A2

4. Listening, History and Analysis – 135 minutes (20%) - Externally assessed
  - Test of aural perception and recognition of compositional detail (45 mins)
  - Set Work: Shostakovich Symphony No.5. One essay from a choice of two
  - Set topic: English choral music of the C20. One essay from a choice of two.
5. Harmony and Counterpoint (15%) – Externally assessed
  - Harmonisation of a chorale melody in the style of J.S Bach

- Completion of a string quartet in classical style (Supervised coursework)
6. Performance Recital (15%) – Externally assessed
- Solo recital (10-15 minutes)

## How the course is delivered

At Wyke we believe that quality requires time and that we can provide you with a higher standard of musical education by organising the AS and A2 units over two years. Therefore, all incoming Music students will sit exams according to the following programme: -

Year 1		Year 2	
April	AS Practical		
May	AS Listening, History and Analysis	January (final week)	A2 Practical
		April and May	AS/A2 Harmony coursework
		June	A2 Listening, History and Analysis

**As you will be taking the AS and A2 units over two years you will need to be committed to the full two year course from the outset.**

You will receive four 70 minute lessons a week with the Director of Music.

## **Departmental Enrichment**

In addition to academic courses the department thrives on its practical work. Music ensembles also exist as enrichment for both examination and non-examination students. There is a busy schedule of weekly rehearsals and a diverse range of groups including College Choir, wind, string and brass ensembles, chamber groups and big band. There is also the opportunity for students to perform as soloists. Rehearsals culminate in the Christmas and Spring Concerts. In addition there is the annual lunchtime concert at Wesley Chapel, Harrogate in the Spring and the end of year Summer Recital for first year musicians to encourage students towards solo performance.

## **Student success**

The success rate for A level Music is consistently very high. In 2011 all students passed with 73% gaining A\* and B grades. Curtis Wherritt, for example, was active in a full range of ensembles including the choir, jazz orchestra and madrigal ensemble. He gained an A\* grade and is now studying for a music degree at Huddersfield University.

## **What does this course lead to**

Most students continue to study music at either a music college or university although one can, of course, study the subject for its own sake too.

## **What can I do now that would help prepare me for this course?**

Ensure that you are fluent in reading treble and bass clefs and have passed an instrumental or voice exam at grade 5 level. If you have not attained grade 5 then we would ask you to undertake an informal audition including a short performance and theory test. Additionally you should revise the basics such as keys signatures, major and minor scales, intervals, simple and compound time.