MGSG Music Curriculum 2025-26

Theory and listening skills

Performing skills

Composing skills

Year 13

Musical Theatre: a study of the genre and focused listening to a range of musical theatre pieces by six prescribed composers

Examine advanced performance practice: historically and personal to students. Prepare for final NEA assessment

In depth study of the development of the symphony: Berlioz onwards

Continual preparation for performance to visiting examiner

Final Preparation for written exam

Higher Education

Working on composing NEA portfolio

Into the Twentieth Century: Maximalism, impressionism expressionism and Neo-Classicism. Study includes two set works

Year 12

In depth study of Haydn Symphony no. 104, general study of Mendelssohn Symphony No. 4

Focused listening to a range of symphonic works

In depth study of the development of the symphony up to and including Mendelssohn

Free composition

Developing skills in composing (WCT focus)

Developing composing skills: melody writing, rhythmic motifs, harmony, texture

Examine advanced performance practice: historical and personal to students, continual practice and performance opportunities

Working on composing NEAs

Greater analysis of the set works: fully prepare for the exam questions

Working towards performing NEA: solo and ensemble

Practice exam questions on the four Areas of Study

Year 11

Deliberate, structured listening to carefully selected examples of music from the four Areas of Study: Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music, Popular Music

Focused analysis of two set works: Badinerie and Africa

Developing composing skills throughout the year: short exercises leading to longer compositions

Building on theory covered in KS3, applying to compositions, listening and analysis work

Developing performing skills throughout the year: solo and ensemble. Rehearsal, informal and formal performances. Assessed with GCSE criteria

Optional unit: undertake analysis, research, performance or composition into one of: Fusions, Historical study, Ska and Reggae

Year 10

Incidental music, recitative, aria, chorus, ensemble, duet etc

Origins of musical theatre

Compose a piece in EDM style using Ableton, incorporating trademark features of EDM

Rehearse and perform a well-known song from a musical: instrumental and vocal parts with accuracy and expression

Compose a piece of musical to accompany a scene in a musical

EDM: history, changing musical media

1950s onwards: characteristics of music from each decade

How do performers achieve expression in their music?

Compose in binary, ternary and rondo structures using clear contrast and cadences to punctuate

Creating musical contrast

Rehearse and perform with accuracy and expression

Bass clef, key signatures

Year 9

Compose a section of a song: chord pattern, bass line and melody

Arrange a well-known pop song: melody, bass, chords & rhythm

Focus on how verses and choruses sound different

Evaluate the effect different styles of music have on a film clip

Examine how mood and atmosphere are created in film music

Forms and structures in WCT

Triplets, syncopation, notation of rests

Cadences: where to use them, perfect, plagal and imperfect

Song-writing: chord patterns, bass lines, melody lines

Revisit theory from Year 8

Forms and structures in popular song

Compose music to accompany a short film clip (Ableton)

Learn to play well-known melodies and chords on the keyboard

Italian terms: tempo & dynamics

Use Italian terms: tempo & dynamics

Improvise using notes from given scales: Egyptian, Indian and Jazz

Working with structure

Instruments used in Egypt, Northern India and Jazz music

Revisit theory from Year 7

Compose a pentatonic piece music to a brief

Compose chord patterns, bass lines and melody lines

Year 7

Note lengths & rhythms

Bars & bar lines, repeat marks

Note names (treble clef)

Ostinato and riff

Practise playing rhythms accurately by ear and from notation on percussion instruments

Working with Samba rhythms: rehearse and perform

Musical instruments, families

Repetition and sequence

Tonality and key signatures, time signatures

Ableton will be available to Year 8 and 9 students, Soundtrap for KS4 and 5 Music students

Flat is available to all KS4 and 5 students

All KS3 units of work include a broad range of listening activities in which student develop their listening skills and use of associated vocabulary to a high level

All KS3 units include self- and peer- assessment activities

Throughout the year: use your voice correctly in singing a range of songs

An alternative instrument can be guitar or ukulele.