

A-Level Music: Y12 Bridging Unit
Area of Study 1: Western Classical Tradition 1650 – 1910

There are two strands to cover during Year 12, they are the solo baroque concerto and the Classical Operas of Mozart.

There are four pieces of music to study from the Baroque Music strand:

- Purcell Sonata for Trumpet and Strings
- Bach Violin Concerto in A Minor
- Vivaldi Flute Concerto in D Major 'Il Gardellino'

From the Classical opera strand, we study a selection of movements from The Marriage of Figaro by Mozart.

In order to be able to access these pieces it is essential that you are able to read treble clef fluently. You should also be able to read basic notation in bass clef and identify key signatures.

The link below will take you to an online copy of the score for Bach's Violin Concerto in A Minor:

<http://ks.imslp.net/files/imglnks/usimg/b/b3/IMSLP02298-Bach - BGA - BWV 1041.pdf>

Listen to a recording on YouTube and try to follow the score. Have a go at the following:

- look at how the parts work together throughout the piece.
- look at the bass parts and how they move independently throughout the piece.
- try to pick out the key melodic ideas that are used throughout the piece.
- see if you can spot any key changes (look for accidental notes in the music).

You should familiarise yourself with all of the pieces outlined above by listening to the before starting the course.

You should also research about the key musical features of baroque music and classical music so that you can apply this knowledge to analysis work at the beginning of the course.

Use some of these links to get you started:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/music/western_tradition/mozart_symphony1.shtml

<http://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/periods-genres/classical/classical-music-beginners-guide/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/music/western_tradition/baroque_orchestral1.shtml