

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AND LEARNING IN A LEVEL LISTENING AND APPRAISING LESSONS

CODE 7740

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course, Updated and Revised for summer 2021, is designed for all teachers of A Level Music, looking to raise student attainment levels in the Listening and Appraising examinations. The course, for teachers of all exam boards, provides a range of teaching approaches, techniques and strategies to improve attainment for successful outcomes across the student ability range. The course will also give focus to ways of developing the skills and knowledge required to respond well to exam questions on musical style, set works and wider repertoire.

PROGRAMME

The Listening and Appraising Component – Reflections and Approaches

10.00 – 10.30am

- Examiner feedback from 2019 – key considerations for 2020
- Reviewing the skills that students need to demonstrate in the appraising exam

Identifying and Analysing Musical Style and Applying Technical Vocabulary Appropriately

10.30 – 11.10am

- Practical strategies that promote a *musical* understanding of the key terms
- How to help students accurately describe musical features in unfamiliar pieces
- Analysing musical styles – in-depth approaches to help students identify the core styles and stylistic features
- Resources that promote effective engagement with a range of musical styles, and provide opportunities to practise exam technique

Discussion: coffee break

11.10 – 11.30am

Describing Harmonic Progressions, Describing the Impact of Harmonic Progressions

11.30 – 12.10pm

- Exploring longer-term teaching strategies that provide an understanding of harmonic function.
- Approaches that help students to identify more complex progressions in the prescribed works.
- How to help students recognise chromatic chords, and to describe their impact
- Describing harmonic progressions – methods and techniques to support and stretch students of all abilities

Making Context Meaningful and Applying Contextual Knowledge Appropriately

12.10 – 12.45pm

- Reviewing how contextual knowledge is assessed – what do students need to know?
- How to help students apply their contextual knowledge appropriately to secure high marks
- Strategies that help students to apply their knowledge of historical events, venues, occasions and society to both familiar and unfamiliar works

Lunch and informal discussion

12.45 – 1.45pm

Preparing for Success in the Shorter Listening and Analysis Questions

1.45 – 2.30pm

- Developing higher-level listening skills
- How to prepare students for the A Level dictation questions
- How to help students accurately apply technical vocabulary – practical approaches
- The challenging questions – texture, harmony, methods and approaches to help students
- Reviewing the question types – how to help students apply their knowledge effectively

Writing Strong Essay Responses: Prescribed Works and Unfamiliar Pieces

2.30 – 3.10pm

- What makes a strong A Level set works essay response? How can we build up to this?
- Teaching ideas to develop good essay writing, and to raise achievement levels
- What are the key challenges that let students down?
- Developing A/A* grade essays – examples and discussion

Discussion: afternoon tea

3.10 – 3.15pm

Preparing for the Exam

3.15 – 3.40pm

- Reviewing the common question types in appraising papers
- Practising long response and comparison questions

LOCATION/DATE

Online

Monday 14 June 2021

COURSE LEADER

Andrew Williams is currently Head of Aural and Musicianship at the RCM Junior Department, and teaches at the Purcell School, where he works with all 80 A level music students, teaching harmony, listening and analysis. Each year, his students achieve some of the highest grades in the country and go on to study Music at both conservatoires and universities.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Teachers of A Level Music
- Teachers teaching A Level Music for the first time
- Heads of Music
- Teachers of other Post-16 Music courses

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Discover new teaching methods that will support student progress in listening, analysis and harmony
- Develop strategies to improve student attainment and confidence in appraising papers
- Learn new methods to support weaker students and to stretch the more able
- Discover creative ways to incorporate wider repertoire into your Scheme of Work.
- Explore teaching and learning ideas that help students to hear, understand and identify musical events
- Take away resources that you can use in your own teaching