

DEVELOPING OUTSTANDING COMPOSITIONS IN GCSE MUSIC

CODE 7836

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This composition course revised for 2023 – 2024 is designed for all teachers of GCSE Music in their first years of teaching GCSE Music, regardless of exam board.

The course focuses particularly on pedagogical methods and techniques for teaching composition at GCSE to raise overall standards and will practically explore a range of approaches which are effective to stretch and challenge able students as well as methods to motivate and raise attainment levels in the weaker student.

The key messages from the most recent examiner feedback will be explored as well as those common issues which create barriers to student achievement levels, assessment, feedback and monitoring and tracking student progress in composition skills. Exemplars of top level and medium level compositions will be dissected and analysed.

Teachers will take away a range of effective approaches to support students in creating and developing motifs, using external stimuli for inspiration, responding to a brief and more.

PROGRAMME

	TIME
Beginning at the End – Summarised feedback, common issues raised by examiners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comparison of marking criteria across the exam boards for GCSE ● What students ultimately have to demonstrate to an examiner at GCSE ● Summarised feedback from all of the exam boards ● Common issues raised by examiners ● Immediate priorities 	10.00 – 10.30am
Getting Started: generating differentiated ideas, activities, creating motifs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Generating visibly differentiated ideas, activities, resources, materials which work across the ability range, from non-readers to highly able pupils ● Different ways to create motifs, composing freely without effort: what to do with your initial ideas ● Building in creative, imaginative, musical, approaches in your teaching ● Using external stimuli for inspiration ● Using existing works as starting points for composing ● Examples drawn from a broad range of musical styles 	10.30 – 11.15pm
Discussion: coffee break	11.15 – 11.30am
Responding to a Brief <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exploring how to achieve real musical development ● Considering different forms imaginatively: ground bass/variations/ternary form ● How to teach for genuine melodic and rhythmic growth rather than just layering of musical lines and instruments ● How to write idiomatically ● Using existing pieces to arrange and stimulate ideas ● Relating the brief to its intended audience ● Adding the extra bit of 'magic' to make the composition stand out 	11.30 – 12.30pm
Lunch and informal discussion	12.30 – 1.30pm
Setting Words to Music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understanding how words work with music ● Ideas for creating texts to set ● Examining different song form structures eg strophic, verse and chorus ● Creating imaginative melodies, with strong shape and direction ● Developing songs that are imaginative and ambitious; exploiting the voice ● Bringing it all together to create a strong sense of style and coherence ● Different examples used which can work in the context of a classroom lesson 	1.30 – 2.30pm
Discussion: afternoon tea	2.30 – 2.35pm
Stage and Screen: Composing Film Music at GCSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Putting film music into context: a background and useful clips to enthuse your students ● Exploring how to create atmospheres, moods and characters ● Considering textural variety and tension ● Relating other areas of composition to work in the context of film 	2.35 – 3.05pm
Putting it all together: The Refining Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Refining the process into a polished piece ● Making a composition outstanding at GCSE ● Marking and giving good feedback on compositions; writing to a brief ● How to give effective feedback on candidates' work ● Range of examples and chance to mark and discuss work; assessing accurately 	3.05 – 3.40pm

LOCATION/DATE

London

Tuesday 19 March 2024

Tuesday 04 June 2024

COURSE LEADER

Jane Werry has been teaching for 30 years, and since 1999 has been Director of Music at Hayes School in Bromley. She is co-author of the award-winning *Being a Head of Music: A Survival Guide*, and is a frequent contributor to *Music Teacher Magazine's* online resources. Jane is also a Specialist Leader in Education and a Musical Futures Champion Teacher. She has been a senior moderator for A-Level harmony and composition, and an examiner for the GCSE listening paper.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Heads of Music
- Teachers of Music

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Develop your teaching to raise standards in composition
- Deepen your understanding of assessment criteria to inform your teaching
- Learn a range of effective approaches to generate and develop musical ideas
- Take away techniques which work across the full student composing range of ability