



BUILDING BRIDGES TO MUSIC A LEVEL

YEAR 11 into YEAR 12

Gordano School

The following resources are all accessible on Sharepoint [at this page](#)

If you do not have access to Sharepoint please contact mhumphries@gordanoschool.org.uk via email to arrange to have the resources delivered to you another way.

Building 'Context' Bridges

Essential Task

1. Work through each of these pages and listen to the audio examples. This will add to and place into context the Purcell, Bach and Beethoven that you studied for GCSE (if you did Edexcel exam board) and help you understand how each era of music evolved and linked to the next.

[A SHORT HISTORY OF MUSIC](#)

2. Complete the GCSE style listening questions in your booklet which link directly to what you have learned in the Short History of Music. These should take about 10 minutes each. Audio files and scans of the questions can all be found on Sharepoint *Note - there is no question for the Renaissance Era.*

[LISTENING QUESTIONS](#)

[02 Handel.mp3](#)

[04 Mozart.mp3](#)

[07 Schubert.mp3](#)

[09 Maxwell Davies.mp3](#)

3. Listen to the Gordano School A-Level Music Spotify Playlist and fill out a listening diary (in your books) for AT LEAST 8 pieces. This will show us that you have engaged with the Short History Of Music and that you are beginning to make your own judgements about pieces you have never heard before.

[SPOTIFY LINK](#)

Building 'Theory' Bridges

Essential Task

Use the resources below to help you improve your music theory knowledge. If you enter A level as a person with very confident Grade 3 theory, you will find the whole course much easier. Definitely worth the effort!

Complete the booklet for the grade you feel is most appropriate to you right now. If you need something more challenging, email mhumphries@gordanoschool.org.uk

- [Grade 1 Poco Music Theory.pdf](#)

- [Grade 2 Poco Music Theory.pdf](#)
- **[Grade 3 Poco Music Theory.pdf](#)**
- [Grade 4 Poco Music Theory.pdf](#)
- [Grade 5 Poco Music Theory.pdf](#)

- [Grade 1 Poco Theory Mark Scheme.pdf](#)
- [Grade 2 Poco Theory Mark Scheme.pdf](#)
- **[Grade 3 Poco Theory Mark Scheme.pdf](#)**
- [Grade 4 Poco Theory Mark Scheme.pdf](#)
- [Grade 5 Poco Theory Mark Scheme.pdf](#)

If you need help with any specific theory points during your work on Grades 1 - 3, please get in contact with one of the music teachers in school and we will make a Youtube video to explain it. Videos will be hosted in the playlist below. If you come across any brilliant theory videos during your learning, please forward them to either of us and we will add them to this theory playlist.

[Gordano Music Theory Playlist](#)

Building 'Performance' Bridges

Essential task

Please be prepared to give a performance in the first few weeks of Year 12. This will just be to your teacher/class. Ideally the piece will be Grade 5 or higher and it CANNOT be a piece which you used for GCSE.

The ideal scenario is that you are able to perform at Grade 7 or 8 by the March of your Year 13. If you are not at that level yet, you need to have this target clearly in your mind from now on. If you are currently grade 4 for example, you will need to step up your practice routine to ensure that you make rapid progress over the coming summer, and throughout Year 12.

If you would like specific, personal advice on this, please contact either of the music teachers in the school.

Building 'Composing' Bridges

Optional Task

It is hard to set an extended composition project to help you develop this ability during the break but you would be well served by creating an arrangement of something. The ideal scenario is that it would be for an ensemble that we have in school. We are always looking for good, modern arrangements for our smaller outfits; saxophone quintet, string quartet, woodwind ensemble, barbershop, barbieshop etc... You could choose a piece of music (one that you already have the music for) and create an arrangement for it using Sibelius or Noteflight (available online) software.

For example, if you are a clarinetist, you could use the piano part and lead part of a piece from your graded book to create a 4 part version of the piece for a woodwind quartet. The skill here is sharing the melody out and creating interesting textures rather than worrying about what is the correct note.