

A Level Music

Holiday Assignments

1. See 'A level Music Listening List (Set Works)'; listen to the set works; get to know the music really well. Do some general research around the context and composer of each set work, and try to find other works by different composers that were written at a similar time. Please bring evidence of this.
2. See 'Bach Chorales: labelling chords'. Complete this exercise.
3. Practise a solo piece for performance in September; we will provide an accompanist if required.

For those who wish to have instrumental/vocal lessons with us next year, please complete the application form on the school website (navigate to 'Beyond the Classroom > Music Opportunities'): <https://www.gch.org.uk/beyond-the-classroom/music-opportunities> *Please only apply once you are sure you will attend GCH for sixth form.*

A Level Music Listening List (Set Works)

Listen to the following works and get to know them as well as you can; do some general research around the composer/piece/genre.

Vocal Music

- J. S. Bach, Cantata, *Ein feste Burg*, BWV 80: Movements 1, 2, 8
- Vaughan Williams, *On Wenlock Edge*: Nos. 1, 3 and 5 (*On Wenlock Edge*, *Is my team Ploughing?* and *Bredon Hill*)

Instrumental Music

- Clara Wieck-Schumann, Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17: movement 1
- Berlioz, *Symphonie Fantastique*: Movement I

Music for Film

- Danny Elfman, *Batman Returns*: Main theme (*Birth of a Penguin Part II*), *Birth of a Penguin Part I*, *Rise and fall from grace*, and *Batman vs. the Circus*
- Bernard Herrmann, *Psycho*: *Prelude*, *The City*, *Marion*, *The Murder* (Shower Scene), *The Toys*, *The Cellar*, *Discovery*, *Finale*.

Popular Music and Jazz

- Courtney Pine, *Back in the Day*: *Inner state (of mind)*, *Lady Day and (John Coltrane)*, and *Love and affection*
- Kate Bush, *Hounds of Love*: *Cloudbusting*, *And dream of sheep*, and *Under ice*
- Beatles, *Revolver*: *Eleanor Rigby*, *Here, there and everywhere*, *I want to tell you*, and *Tomorrow never knows*

Fusions

- Debussy, *Estampes*: Nos. 1 and 2 (*Pagodes* and *La soirée dans Grenade*)
- Anoushka Shankar, *Breathing Under Water*: *Burn*, *Breathing Under Water* and *Easy*

New Directions

- Kaija Saariaho, *Petals for Violoncello and Live Electronics*
- Stravinsky, *The Rite of Spring*: *Introduction*, *The Augurs of Spring*, and *Ritual of Abduction*

Bach Chorales – labelling chords

Label the chords with Roman numerals and their inversions.

or

Label the chords with Roman numerals.

or

Label the chords with the names of the chords.

Step-by-step guide

1. Work out the key.
2. Work out the notes in each chord and try to identify the chord.
3. Work out the relationship of that chord to the key (e.g. if the key is G major and the chord is G, it is chord I; if the key is G major and the chord is D, it is chord V).
4. Look at the bass part: if the bass note is the root of the chord, the chord is in root position; if the bass note is the third (middle note) of the chord, it is in first inversion; if the bass note is the fifth (top note) of the chord, it is in second inversion.
5. Use the shorthand labels for inversions: nothing for root position, 'b' for first inversion, 'c' for second inversion.

Tip: also look at the notes on the beat (ignore the quavers).

BWV 32

Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele

Musical score for BWV 32, 'Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele'. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody of quarter notes and half notes, with a fermata over the final note. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment of chords, with some eighth-note patterns. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

BWV 262

Alle menschen müssen sterben

Musical score for BWV 262, 'Alle menschen müssen sterben'. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody of quarter notes and half notes, with a fermata over the final note. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment of chords, with some eighth-note patterns. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.