

## Year 11 Transition Work for A Level Music

In order to give you a little flavour of A level Music and to get you thinking in an A level way, here are some activities you can embark upon in the time you now have before school restarts:

1. Attached is the A Level Music Vocabulary list. You do not need to learn this in the way in which we did for GCSE, but you do need to understand and be able to use all of it before you sit your final exams. In the first instance, you should read it through and highlight the terms you already know. Then you should input the vocabulary into Quizlet, so that you start to familiarise yourself with the terms and begin to use them in the work set below.
2. We need to listen to a lot of different music for A level and starting now, will give you a head start. When you listen to music for A level, you should always have the check-list below to hand to guide your listening. You should be listening for features you can identify under each heading:
  - Melody, melodic style, vocal style, text setting
  - Rhythm, metre, tempo
  - Tonality
  - Harmony
  - Texture
  - Structure, organisation of music
  - Timbre, sonority, instrumental techniques and their effects on music
  - Dynamics
  - Context - effect of purpose and intention, audience, time, place, how music from different historical, social and cultural contexts has changed
3. When we begin A level, we will be analysing film music, so here are some sound tracks to listen to which will give you an insight into the music we will be listening to. Use the check-list above and listen to the tracks lots of times - each time try to spot something you can note under each heading and write it down. It may be that you need to listen to the track several times for each heading. Don't forget to refer to the vocabulary list as well for any other terms you could use. This will be invaluable related listening when we start to analyse our set works
  - Max Steiner: *King Kong*
  - Ennio Morricone: *Once Upon A Time In The West*
  - John Williams: *Schindler's List*
  - Debbie Wiseman: *Wilde*
  - Hans Zimmer and Lisa Gerrard: *Gladiator*
  - Toru Takemitsu: *Black Rain*
4. You could even try to get hold of a copy of the films themselves and watch them with the soundtracks very much in the forefront of your minds.

Whatever you do, make some notes, enjoy the films and the music!