

# Rationale for A Level Music Teacher Assessments 2021

This year students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, with students only assessed on what they have been taught and based on the standard at which they are performing.

Fairness and flexibility are at the heart of this plan. Teachers have been asked to draw on a range of evidence when determining grades, including the optional use of questions provided by exam boards, as well as mock exams, coursework, or other work completed as part of a student's course, such as essays or in-class tests.

## The process for awarding a Teacher Assessment Grade (TAG) for A Level Music at KNGS:

Music students in Year 13 all over the country have been severely affected since March 2020 by the Covid pandemic and as a result Music Departments all over the country have had to think carefully about how to award an A Level grade that is deserving of the students' work and takes into account the content covered.

Here at KNGS a great deal of the A Level course content was covered very successfully in Music, particularly work for the final examination. Performance preparation also continued for the most part unhindered due to online lessons being set up and starting after Easter in 2020. Composition did suffer as it was difficult for feedback to be given in a practical way over an online medium. This is reflected in the weighting of the A level music grade.

### TAG Grades 2021

- TAG grade will cover each element of the course (performance, composition and final exam) as advised by the exam board.
- The range of evidence used ensures that all Assessment Objectives are covered.

The weighting will be as follows:

**Performance 40%** - This will be a recital between 5-10 minutes in length, recorded in one take and marked by the music teacher in line with the criteria specified by the exam board.

**Composition 20%** - One coursework composition will be marked by the music teacher in line with marking criteria specified by the exam board.

**10% of the final grade** will be taken from work done in the period September 2021-December 2021 when final exam style essay and listening questions were completed in lesson time

**Formal Assessment 30%** - this will take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May. It will be 1 hour 30 minutes long and contain questions on the following topics:

- Haydn Symphony No. 104
- Debussy - *Nuages*
- Musical Theatre – specifically the works of Richard Rodgers
- Unseen Symphony Question, containing rhythmic and melodic dictation and identifying errors in pitch and rhythm.

A further assessment will take place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May and will be a 30 minute essay question on the development of the symphony from the beginning of the Classical period to the end of the Late Romantic Period.