

# Music Composition

## History and development of Music

Learn how music has developed throughout history. Starting around the time of the musical discoveries of Pythagoras in Ancient Greece, to early sacred vocal music of the medieval church to artistic movements of the renaissance. Become familiar with the great composers and innovators who shaped the musical world as we know it. See how these developments led to the Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern styles.

## Tools for Understanding Music

Exploring rhythm, tempo, articulation etc.

## Introduction to orchestral instruments

What are the instruments used in the orchestra? How have they changed over time and what are their ranges? Learning about these instruments adds depth to your piano playing as you start to think in orchestral terms. The ranges, timbre and use of each instrument opens your mind to the unique colour that they can offer in music. How can we use this colour to enliven and enrich our playing?

## Harmony

Understanding the chords of a key. Introduction to functional harmony (tonic and dominant relationship). Voices in music (Bass, Tenor, Alto and Soprano)

## Analysis of a score

Studying the harmony, texture and structure of a piece of music. The student will aim to understand a piece of music completely and thoroughly. This level of total understanding leads to professional standards of confidence and skill in the subjects of musical performance and composition. It is a transferable skill, and can be used on other instruments, as well as providing a critical level of thinking in all aspects of life. Awareness of forms of composition such as concerto, sonata, fugue, canon, etc. will be explored.

## Composing a piece

The student is given guidelines and rules to follow to help to compose a piece of music. By narrowing constraints you will be able to explore your creativity with structure and learn the methods of great composers, following in their footsteps. We will work with manuscript paper to develop confidence in writing out a score.

Counterpoint and composing a melody to a given bass line. This important skill has been a staple of music composition technique among the masters for centuries.

Harmonising a melody. How to create different moods and sounds by using different chords and harmonies. Using the imagination to write a melody, then having the tools to arrange it properly on the piano.