



Music

Candidates

IB Music is suitable for those who are interested in developing their performing and/or composing skills and studying a variety of music in some depth. The course offers tremendous breadth and does not focus exclusively on one type of music-making. Candidates must be prepared to open their minds to a range of styles including, but not limited to, classical, jazz, pop and world music: last year's listening paper, for example, included such diverse excerpts as a movement from a Haydn Symphony, a piece of bagpipe music, some Cuban jazz and a piece of traditional Chinese music. There is scope for candidates to focus on their particular areas of interest.

Some performing experience is expected; most candidates play an instrument or sing to at least Associated Board Grade 5 standard (it is not necessary to have taken this exam). Previous experience of composition is not necessary.

Standard Level

There are three elements to standard level music:

- i) **Listening Paper (30%)**
This is a 2½ hour exam paper at the end of the course. It is in two sections:
 - questions on the set work – a major piece studied in depth (2008/9 – Purcell's opera *Dido and Aeneas*)
 - questions on four short unprepared extracts of music

- ii) **Musical Investigation (20%)**
A written media script of around 2000 words investigating the relationship between two musical genres. Recent examples chosen by Bedford pupils include a comparison of Steve Reich's minimalist piece *Drumming* and a Ugandan percussion piece, and of Miles Davis' *So What* and the Indian piece *Rag Bhairav*.

iii) **One** of the following options: (50%)

a) **Solo Performance**

A solo recital of approximately 15 minutes

b) **Group Performance**

A recital as a member of an ensemble lasting between 15 and 30 minutes

c) **Composition**

Two contrasting compositions with recordings and a written statement

Higher level

Sections (i) and (ii) of Higher Level are identical to the corresponding sections of Standard Level. There are no choices at Higher Level – **both** solo performance and composition are compulsory.

i) **Listening Paper** (30%)

This is a 2½ hour exam paper at the end of the course. It is in two sections:

- questions on the set work – a major piece studied in depth (2008/9 – Purcell's opera *Dido and Aeneas*)
- questions on four short unprepared extracts of music

ii) **Musical Investigation** (20%)

A written media script of around 2000 words investigating the relationship between two musical genres. Recent examples chosen by Bedford pupils include a comparison of Steve Reich's minimalist piece *Drumming* and a Ugandan percussion piece, and of Miles Davis' *So What* and the Indian piece *Rag Bhairav*.

iii) **Solo Performance** (25%)

A solo recital of approximately 20 minutes

iv) **Composition** (25%)

Three contrasting compositions with recordings and a written statement

The Department

Bedford School has a thriving, well-resourced and busy Music Department housed in a new state-of-the-art building. Please refer to our section of the website for more details.