Studying Music at St Anne’s

Music is a varied and enriching subject. As a Visiting Student at St Anne’s College, you will be able to participate in this variety because we offer options in all three ‘branches’ of the discipline (performance, composition and musicology or music history) and have subject specialists in each field. Furthermore, there are opportunities to mix options within these areas as well as a wide range of performance groups and ensembles in which to take part. Participation within some of these can also be awarded credit.

Oxford offers a vibrant musical life outside the curriculum and you will find a wealth of musical opportunities await. St Anne’s College also offers opportunities for conductors and composers and study within these areas can be organised to suit the particular needs of the student. Some courses are subject to audition. There are also competitions for both performers and composers.

Music is strongly supported within the college: there is a music bursary scheme, open to both music and non-music students and intended to help pay for instrumental lessons. Music students at St Anne’s have the advantage of an excellent collection of books and scores in the College Library (open 24 hours a day), as well as the use of a dedicated suite of four practice rooms, which can be booked and used until 10pm. One of these is used as an ensemble room and houses a new Yamaha grand piano.

The St Anne’s College Recital Series takes place weekly during term time in the Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre, which also has its own grand piano. These showcase young professional musicians, as well as some of our own students, who are encouraged to participate in these and make the most of the opportunity to perform in public.

St Anne’s students are also able to join the college orchestra (run jointly with St John’s) and the college choir, as well as making the most of the rich musical life of Oxford as a whole. The following course options are designed to offer a sense of the topics that can be studied and combined. It is also possible to combine one or more of these courses with courses in a different subject. You may, if the courses and teaching permits choose from a range of pathways.

The following courses are a guide to what you might study.

Some of these options (indicate by [Aud]) are subject to audition and in this case you should select alternatives; similarly, the list serves as an illustration of what you might expect.

PERFORMANCE
- Ensemble Performance [AUD]
- Conducting [AUD]
- Psychological Perspectives on Performance
- Choral Performance
- Musical Analysis
- Instrumental Tuition (this can be provided as part of a performance programme)

COMPOSITION
- Compositional Tutorials
- Techniques of Contemporary Composition
- New Music Ensemble [AUD]
• Orchestration
• Harmony & Counterpoint
• Musical Analysis
• New Music Repertoire Lectures
• Studio Techniques and Sound Design

MUSICOLGY (this should be seen as illustrative only)
• Music History I (to 1700) – this is a wide-ranging course with topics including:
  ➢ Sacred Polyphony from Josquin to Palestrina
  ➢ Genres and Forms of Keyboard Music 1600-1750
  ➢ Machaut’s Songs
• Music History II (from 1700) – this is a wide-ranging course with topics including:
  ➢ Schubert’s Last Decade
  ➢ Wagner: the Romantic Operas and Music Dramas
  ➢ Nineteenth Century Symphony: Pastoral Idylls, National Anxieties
  ➢ Global Hip Hop
• Dance Music: Case Studies in Function, Form and Meaning
• Film Music
• Musical Thought and Scholarship / Issues in the Study of Music
• The Psychology of Everyday Musical Experience / Music Perception
• Lieder in Theory and Practice
• Sounding North: music in Scandinavia
• Studies in Women Composer