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 / 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, whereby 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 are a range of music scholarships, open to both music and non-music students and intended to help pay for 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 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 (indicated 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

- Chamber Music and Ensemble Performance [AUD]
- Conducting Skills [AUD]
- Historically Informed Performance
- Musical Analysis
- Instrumental Tuition (this can be provided as part of a performance programme)
- Music in the Community
- Keyboard Skills
- Free Improvisation
- Choral Performance (Hilary Term only)
• Choral Conducting (Hilary Term only)

COMPOSITION

• Compositional Tutorials
• Techniques of Composition
• New Music Ensemble [AUD]
• Orchestration
• Stylistic Composition, Arrangement and Transcription of classical, jazz and popular music
• Analysis Portfolio
• Critical Listening (Michaelmas Term only)
• Introduction to Contemporary Music Lectures
• Studio Techniques and Sound Design
• Free Improvisation
• Recording and Producing (Trinity Term only)

MUSICOLOGY (course choices vary greatly and the following selection should be seen as illustrative only)

• Machaut
• Vernacular Song in the long 13th Century
• The Trouvères (Michaelmas Term only)
• Polyphony and Polemic in a Fractured Europe, c. 1500-1800
• 18th-Century Opera
• Beethoven: Between History and Myth
• Nationalisms
• Music and Gender in Britain, 1830-1930 (Michaelmas Term only)
• The String Quartet Between Classicism and Modernism
• History of Electronic Music
• Women in Popular Music
• Art Decade: Rock Musics of the 1970s (Michaelmas Term only)
• Global Hip-Hop

• Introduction to Music Psychology
• Cultural Evolution of Music
• History and Philosophy of Music Education
• Music Education: Practice and Pedagogy

• Musical Thought and Scholarship / Foundations in the Study of Music
• Musical Analysis
• Critical Studies in Ethnomusicology / Music Ethnography
• Edition with Commentary