



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

**To be given to candidates on or after  
1 September 2022 for assessment in June 2023**

## **A Level Music**

**H543/03, 04** Composing

Section 1: Composing briefs



### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- Choose **one** of the briefs. Create a piece of music from the brief you have chosen.
- You must submit your composition as a recording and include a score, an annotated lead sheet or a written account of the piece.
- Group compositions are **not** allowed.

### **INFORMATION**

- The total mark is **35**.
- This document has **4** pages.

Choose **one** of the following briefs.

**1 Area of Study 1: Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven**

Compose a quartet for any **four** instruments appropriate to the classical tradition. The composition should have **two** short contrasting movements. The piece is intended to be played as part of a recital focused on Mozart and will be performed at Wigmore Hall and live on BBC Radio 3, to mark the Anniversary of the Third Programme (the forerunner of Radio 3).

**2 Area of Study 2: Popular Song: Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band**

Compose a song in any style appropriate to this area of study, which will become the soundtrack for a film biography of the American singer, Andy Williams. The film will be called 'Beautiful Balloon' and will be released in the Summer of 2023. Use a small band or full orchestra, writing for a minimum of **four** parts. The words can be borrowed from any of Andy Williams' songs or you can write your own lyrics.

**3 Area of Study 3: Developments in Instrumental Jazz, 1910 to the present day**

Compose an instrumental jazz piece based on the theme of 'The Climate Crisis', to be played at the Jazzfest, Berlin in November 2023. Write in any style appropriate to this area of study, using a minimum of **four** separate parts.

**4 Area of Study 4: Religious Music of the Baroque Period**

Compose a *Recitative* and *Aria* for any chosen voice, as part of a bigger Oratorio. The subject is the Creation from the Old Testament. Words can be borrowed from any religious text or you can write your own. Instrumental accompaniments should follow Baroque traditions and have a minimum of **two** parts for the recitative and **five** parts for the aria. The piece will be performed at the Basilica di San Lorenzo in Florence as part of a concert celebrating the life of Vivaldi.

**5 Area of Study 5: Programme Music, 1820–1910**

Compose a suite of pieces which takes its inspiration from 'The Carnival of the Animals' by Camille Saint-Saëns, to celebrate the 170th anniversary of the opening of the first ever public Aquarium at London Zoo. Write a minimum of **three** short movements for any number of instruments and any instrumental combinations. The piece will be performed at the Paris Conservatoire, where Saint-Saëns studied.

**6 Area of Study 6: Innovations in Music, 1900 to the present day**

Compose **two** short, contrasting movements of incidental music for a modern ballet. The story can be based on any established storyline or fairy tale. Use any combination of instruments (no voices), but there should be a minimum of **seven** parts. The ballet will be performed by Scottish Ballet in Glasgow in September 2023.

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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