

## MUSIC

The Leaving Certificate Music syllabus provides continuity and progression from Junior Certificate Music. The general aims and overall shape of both is broadly similar. In providing the musical knowledge, understanding, practical competencies and attitudes appropriate to their age, abilities and interests, the syllabus caters for the varying needs of all students including those who wish to pursue further studies in music.

Music is a universal language and in its own right, a way of “knowing”. As form of knowledge it encourages the development of many of the cognitive processes used in other subject areas. It is an immensely useful subject and the syllabus continues to emphasise the integration of the three activity areas introduced at Junior Certificate level i.e. performing, listening and composing.

The syllabus structure has been adopted to provide a fully balanced musical experience central to which is the development of musicality. Studying music at Leaving Cert. provides a vital basis for further education in the area.

### Career Possibilities

A music education and working knowledge of music theory proves useful for careers related to media, primary teaching, early childhood education, psychology, sound engineering, public relations, library work, communications, theatre, production, performance and other areas of study at third level.

*Please Note: Students who did not complete Junior Cycle music are accommodated where possible but students are required to be able to read music to study this subject. Little knowledge of music theory or history is permissible but a working knowledge of a musical instrument (piano, guitar, voice etc.) is essential.*

### Third Level Entry Requirements

For most music courses, your Leaving Cert results are not the only factor considered for entry. Different colleges have their own requirements. For example: to study Music in UCD an entrance test is given to all candidates and in NUIM applicants must sit an entrance exam, an interview and an audition. To be included in any of the audition processes you must indicate the course choice on the first CAO application. These assessment take place in April of 6<sup>th</sup> year.

Make sure to research thoroughly the requirements of your preferred course as early as possible. The audition process is relevant to leaving Cert students' level of study and sample tests are sent out to candidates with their audition information.

### Exam Structure - Modes of Assessment:

Aural Exam                      25%

Composition Exam            25%

Practical Exam    50%

### Listening Paper:

Examined in June of 6th year

90 minutes duration

Four set works, Irish music and general listening skills.

It is important to note that each of the prescribed set works is examined on the aural paper alongside Irish Music and Aural Skills.

### Composition Paper

Examined in June of 6th year

90 minutes duration

Melody writing and harmony

### Performance

Examined in March/April of 6th year

Candidates may perform as a soloist or as part of a group or both and can opt to complete a music technology component in their exam.

Standard of performance must reflect five years classroom based tuition. Students in our school complete the performing elective at higher level.

**Higher Level Performing Elective: three options**

- 4 pieces on one instrument, music technology and one unprepared test
- 6 pieces on one instrument and one unprepared test
- 4 pieces on one instruments, 4 on another instrument and one unprepared test.

**Ordinary Level: two options**

- 2 pieces on one instrument and one unprepared test.
- Music Technology

The music room is an exceptional learning and teaching space. Students have access to a technology lab with 15 computers, a grand piano, a full drum kit, multiple guitars and many other instruments. Class sizes do not exceed 24 students and students are offered many opportunities to develop their musicality and performance skills. Teachers in the music department are available to guide students in preparation for their practical exams and facilitate the provision of technology tuition for all students.

Students need not have studied music at Junior Level; however, they should have attained a competency in their practical musical ability. Because of the practical nature of this subject, students and/or parents should discuss this with the senior level music teacher before choosing it as a Leaving Certificate subject.