

# A Level Music Technology

▶ EdExcel 2022 - St Francis of Assisi



The examination board is **EdExcel**

The course consists of **4 units over 2 years for A Level.**



# A Level Music Technology



- ▶ 100% Pass Rate 2019
- ▶ A\* - E ~ 100% (NA 97.5%)
- ▶ A\* - C ~ 66% (NA 63%)
- ▶ 100% Pass Rate 2021/ 2022
- ▶ A\* - E ~ 100% (NA 97.5%)
- ▶ A\* - C ~ 100% (NA 97.5%)



# A Level Music / Tech

- ▶ **ALL A LEVEL MUSIC STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED THEIR FIRST CHOICE OF UNIVERSITY**

# A Level Music Tech and Music

- ▶ Successful applications to the Birmingham conservatoire



# A Level

# Music Tech

**Progression to Higher Education**

The content allows students to develop their knowledge and skills of music, enabling them to progress into undergraduate music or music related degree courses



# Why study Music Technology A Level?

- ✓ Opens doors to many careers.
- ✓ Allows you to develop as a producer, composer and develop your understanding of the world of music technology.
- ✓ Because you love to listen to, compose and produce music!



# Entry Requirements

- ▶ Study of Music at GCSE (or similar course)
- ▶ To be able to perform on a musical instrument or sing at Grade 4 standard or above at the beginning of the course.





# A Level Music Technology

- ▶ **Component 1 ~ Recording (20%)**
- ▶ **Component 2 ~ Technology based composition (20%)**
- ▶ **Component 3 ~ Listening and analysing (25% Exam)**
- ▶ **Component 4 ~ Producing and Analysing (35% Exam/practical)**



# Component 1: Recording

- ▶ *Non-examined assessment:*
- ▶ *externally assessed 20% of the qualification*
- ▶ **Content overview:**  
Production tools and techniques to capture, edit, process and mix an audio recording.



# Component 1: Recording

## ▶ Assessment overview

- ▶ One recording, chosen from a list of 10 songs provided by EdExcel, consisting of a minimum of five compulsory instruments and two additional instruments
- ▶ Keyboard tracks may be sequenced.
- ▶ Total time must be between 3 minutes and 3½ minutes.
- ▶ Logbook and authentication form must be supplied.



# Student Work Examples

## ▶ Recording 2022



# Component 2: Technology-based composition

- ▶ *Non-examined assessment: externally assessed 20% of the qualification*
- ▶ **Content overview:**
- ▶ **Creating, editing, manipulating and structuring sounds to produce a technology-based composition.**



# Component 2: Technology-based composition

## ▶ Assessment overview

- ▶ One technology-based composition chosen from three briefs set by EdExcel
- ▶ Synthesis and sampling/audio manipulation and creative effects use must be included.
- ▶ Total time must be 3 minutes.
- ▶ Logbook and authentication form must be supplied.



# Student work 2022

## ▶ Technology Based Composition



# Student work 2022

## ▶ Technology Based Composition





# Component 3: Listening and analysing

- ▶ *Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes*
- ▶ *25% of the qualification*
- ▶ **Content overview**
- ▶ Knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles
- ▶ Application of knowledge related to all three areas of study:
  - ▶ recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
  - ▶ principles of sound and audio technology
  - ▶ the development of recording and production technology.



# Component 3: Listening and analysing

- ▶ **Assessment overview**
- ▶ **This paper comprises two sections: A and B.**
- ▶ **Section A:**
- ▶ **Listening and analysing-** four questions, each based on unfamiliar commercial recordings.
- ▶ **Section B:**
- ▶ **Extended written responses-** two essay questions.
- ▶ **One comparison question,** which uses two unfamiliar commercial recordings.



# Component 4: Producing and analysing

- ▶ ***Written/practical examination:***
- ▶ ***2 hours 15 minutes ~ 35% of the qualification***
- ▶ Content overview
- ▶ Knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques, to be applied
- ▶ to unfamiliar materials.
- ▶ Application of knowledge related to two of the areas of study:
  - ▶ recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
  - ▶ principles of sound and audio technology.



# Component 4: Producing and analysing



## ▶ Assessment overview

- ▶ This paper comprises two sections: A and B
- ▶ Each student will be provided with a set of audio/MIDI materials for the practical element of the examination, to include:
  - ▶ audio files relating to three instrumental/vocal parts.
  - ▶ a single MIDI file from which a fourth instrumental part will be created or synthesised.
- ▶ Students will correct and then combine the audio and MIDI materials to form a completed mix, which may include creating new tracks or parts from the materials provided.

# Component 4: Producing and analysing

## ▶ Assessment overview

- ▶ Section A: Producing and analysing- five questions related to the audio and MIDI materials provided that include both written responses and practical tasks.
- ▶ Section B: Extended written response - one essay focusing on a specific mixing scenario, signal path, effect or music technology hardware unit.



**Questions?**

**Please contact**

**[phickman@stfrancis.cc](mailto:phickman@stfrancis.cc)**

**Mr Hickman**

**Head of Music**



