The Queen's College, Oxford

PRELIMINARY READING AND WORK FOR MUSIC UNDERGRADUATES

Congratulations on your place at Queen’s! I look forward to teaching you.

In your first year you will be working towards the Preliminary Examination (‘Prelims’), which takes place at the end of the year. There are written papers in Special Topics (see the list of topics below) and Musical Analysis (late-Baroque and Classical styles and forms), a take-away paper in Techniques of Composition (particular styles of harmony and counterpoint, mainly from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries), a test of keyboard skills (figured bass, and three-part score reading including C3 and C4 (‘alto’ and ‘tenor’) clefs), and two optional subjects. For the optional subjects, you choose two of four possibilities: a two-hour written paper on Issues in the Study of Music (historical methods applied to the study of Western music); a portfolio of compositions; a recital (c. 12 minutes); and an extended essay (4,000–5,000 words). This is a lot to cover in three eight-week terms, so you must make a start on preparation before you arrive. The list of reading below gives preliminary guidance for this: please read items in **bold** before the start of term, and dip into other items on the list as time allows before you arrive. We are particularly lucky in Oxford to have such fine library resources, and you won’t need to buy your own copies of most of the books you will use unless you want to. However, I have asterisked the items that it would be particularly useful to own.

**WRITTEN WORK**

Please complete the following pieces of work before term, and hand them in at the porters’ lodge to be put my pigeon hole by Tuesday of 0th week, 2 October:

1. Write a critique (1200–1500 words) of Susan McClary’s article ‘A Musical Dialectic from the Enlightenment’ (details below; pdf copy provided here): what weaknesses are there in her arguments? What are her strongest points, and why?
2. Bach Analysis (see copy provided here)
3. Bach two-part counterpoint (see copy provided here)

**READING**

For the Special Topics paper and the Issues in the Study of Music paper:

- **Nicholas Cook**, *Music: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP)

The areas covered for the ‘Special Topics’ paper in your 1st year are as follows; you should read about these topics and composers before you arrive using *Grove Music Online*, which is available through all UK public libraries. You can access it remotely: ask at your local library for details of how to do this.

- Machaut
  - Also read *Elizabeth Eva Leach*, *Guillaume De Machaut: Secretary, Poet, Musician* (Cornell University Press, 2011), Introduction and Chapter 1.
- Mozart’s Concertos

- Richard Strauss and Representations of Women
- Global Hip-Hop
- Music, Mind, and Behaviour
  - Read the Grove Music Online article ‘Music Psychology’, and chapter 1 of Andreas Lehmann, John Sloboda, and Robert Woody, Psychology for Musicians (OUP, 2007)

In the first term, you will be lectured on the Mozart’s Concertos, Richard Strauss, and Hip-Hop topics.

Analysis

- Nicholas Cook, A Guide to Musical Analysis (Dent)
- Charles Rosen, The Classical Style (Faber)
- Charles Rosen, Sonata Forms (Norton)

Techniques of Composition

It is important to get to know relevant music. Play through and listen to:
- Bach’s two- and three-part inventions, and the three-part fugues from the 48;
- minuets and trios and slow movements of Haydn & Mozart string quartets.

You can get access to a great deal of the relevant repertory online on IMSLP and CPDL, but particularly useful are the following printed editions:

- Bach Keyboard Music (Dover), and * The Well-Tempered Clavier (Dover)
- Mozart, Complete String Quartets (Dover)
- Haydn, String Quartets Op.20 & Op.33 (Dover)

Reading:

- George Pratt, The Dynamics of Harmony (Oxford University Press)
- Nicholas Cook, Analysis through Composition (Oxford University Press)
- Robert Gauldin, A Practical Approach to Eighteenth-Century Counterpoint (Waveland)

Keyboard skills

- David Ledbetter, Continuo Playing According to Handel (OUP)
- Corelli, The Complete Violin Sonatas & Trio Sonatas (Dover)