

**Leaving Certificate**

**Music**



# Why study music?



music

Inspires creativity and imagination discipline  
increases confidence  
increases school attendance  
improves self-esteem  
literacy and numeracy  
self expression  
mental health  
creates school and community cohesion  
good behaviour  
cultural harmony  
reduces recidivism  
brings inspiration and joy  
crosses economic and social boundaries  
teaches self worth and pride



# Commonly asked questions...



What curriculum is covered over the two years?



What is involved in the practical and final examination?



What is on the papers?



Can I study music at Leaving Certificate even if I have not done it for the Junior Cycle?



# Course Structure

50% specialism and 25% in two other areas



## Listening

**25%**

Aural Skills, study of Irish Music and specified Instrumental and Vocal Works



## Performance

**25%**

Multiple options depending on the students own performing skills and abilities



## Composing

**25%**

Two questions answered; one melody, one harmony

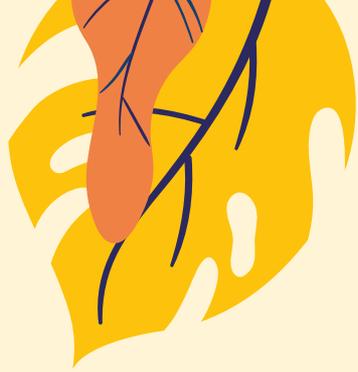


## Specialism in any of the above options

**25%**

You will choose one of the other three areas as a specialism so that it becomes 50% of the overall marks you receive





# Listening Paper

One Paper – 1.5 hrs



## Set Works

- Covering music in popular styles to 20<sup>th</sup> century music
- All 4 pieces studied are questioned in the paper

## Irish music

- Investigating the instruments, styles and history of Irish music

## General Aural Skills

- Describing music that we listen to from medieval style to musical theatre and popular styles

# Composing Paper

One Paper – 1.5hrs



## Melody Question

Compose 12 bars of a response  
to a given 4 bars of melody

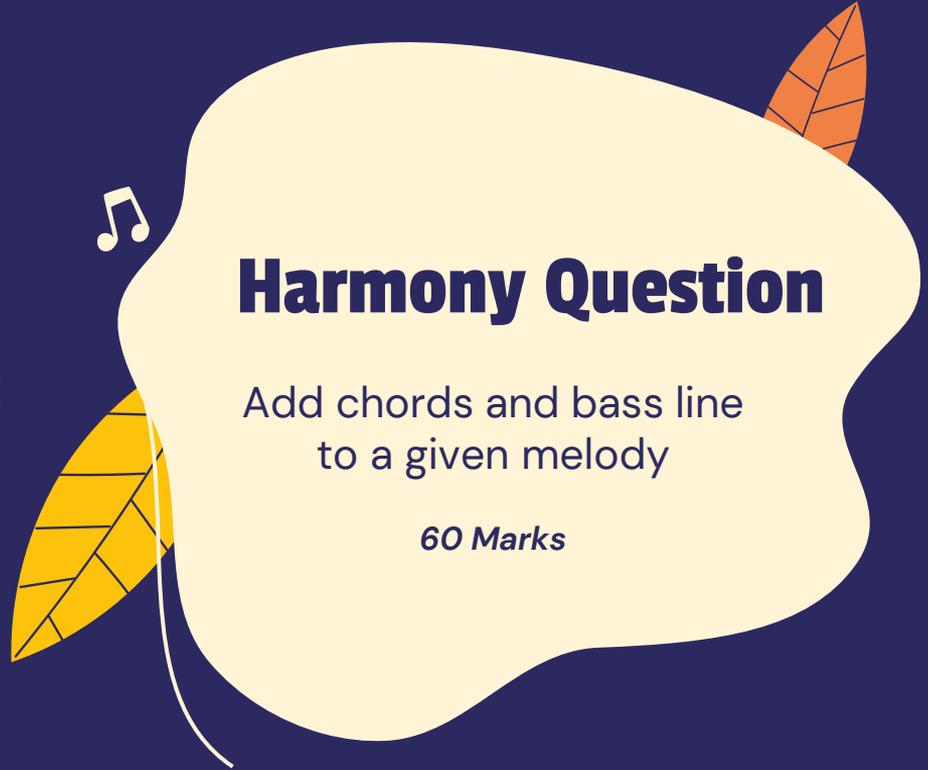
*40 Marks*



## Harmony Question

Add chords and bass line  
to a given melody

*60 Marks*



# Performance Examination

NB: Practical exam takes place around Easter  
in front of an external examiner

- Almost all students take 50% performance
- Music Technology is an option and can be worth 25% or 50% of your exam
- Combinations of musical activities are allowed if you play two instruments





# Performance

(Common Choices for 50% marks)

## *Option 1*

### **50% Performance**

6 pieces on one instrument

## *Option 2*

### **50% Technology**

Inputting 2 pre-prepared scores PLUS creating one backing track and performing to it

## *Option 3*

### **25% + 25% Performing**

4 pieces on one instrument **AND** 4 pieces on another instrument

## *Option 4*

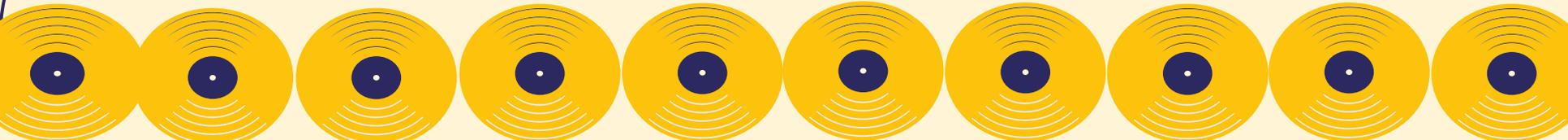
### **25% Technology + 25% Performing**

Inputting a 4 part score **AND** 4 pieces on one instrument

## **Please Note:**

- **It is possible to take up music as a subject for the Leaving Certificate even if you did not take it at Junior Cycle level**
- You need to be able to perform on an instrument and be willing to work on your performance towards your practical exam.
- The skill of reading music is essential to Leaving Cert music. This can be learned in class over the two years.

**Please meet with Ms Creevey to discuss your options if your circumstances are similar to above and you are considering taking up music as a subject for the Leaving Certificate**



# Possible Career Options



## Music Teaching

Many of our music students continue on to teach music in the classroom or privately.



## Sound Engineering

There are lots of college options to study this and it is a very popular option among music students.



## Song writing and Performance

We have many students who are now creating their own music and/or performing and are very successful.



## Radio Broadcasting and Journalism

Music is an essential element in these careers and can enhance the students knowledge of certain areas of expertise.



## Musical Theatre:

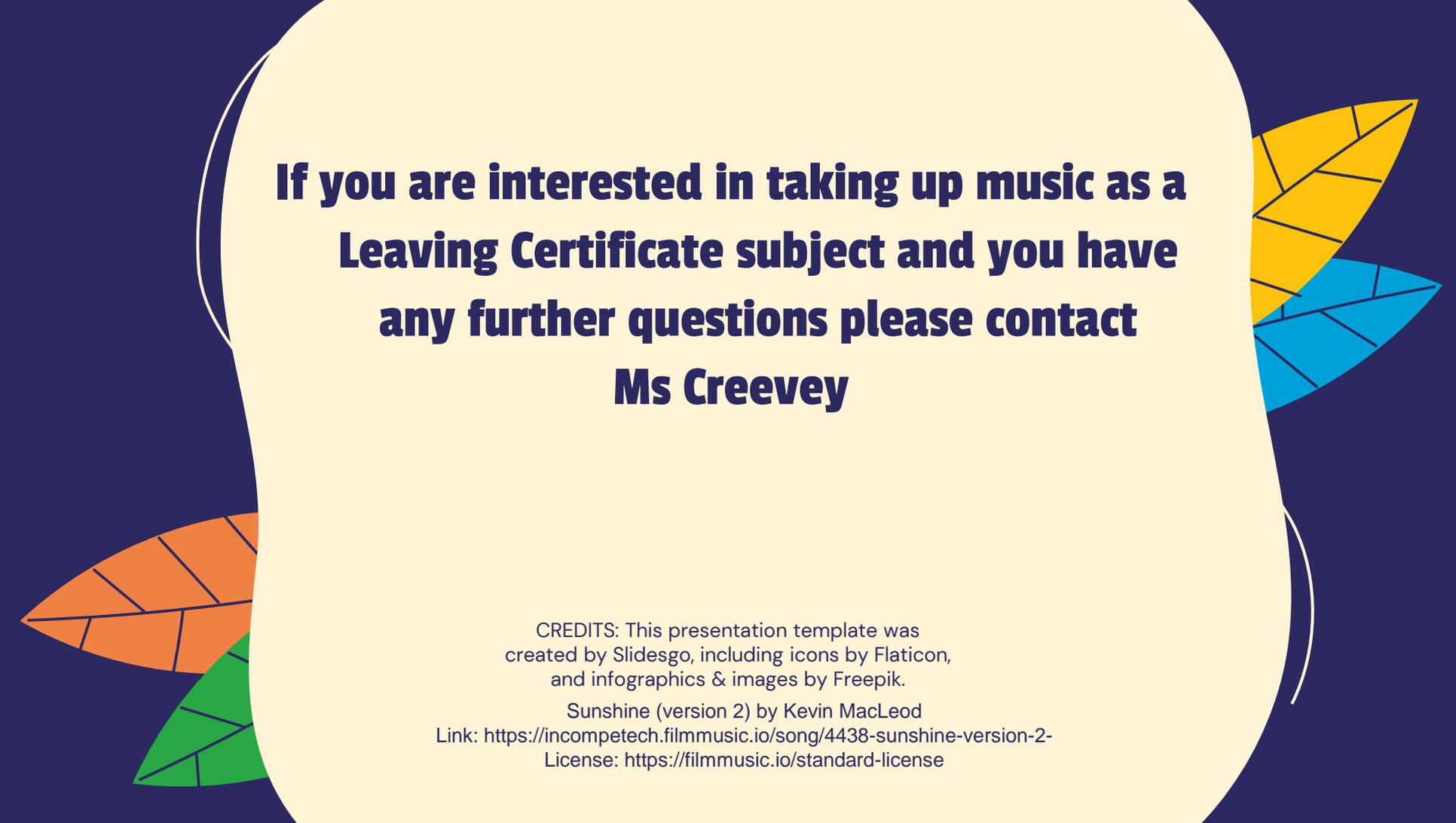
### Production, Directing and Performing

There are many great opportunities in every area of Musical Theatre for a music student and it is quite popular among our students also.



## Orchestral Performer

Many students continue their instrumental tuition in college and find themselves working internationally as well as here in Ireland.



**If you are interested in taking up music as a  
Leaving Certificate subject and you have  
any further questions please contact  
Ms Creevey**

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