

# Junior Academy

## Student Assessments

Student assessments at the Junior Academy have two primary objectives. Firstly, to allow the Director to keep abreast of students' performance progress on an annual basis whilst agreeing targets and aims looking forward. Secondly, to enable the student to talk openly about how they feel they are progressing, both in a general musical sense and more specifically about their time at JA.

The assessment takes about 20 minutes and will comprise the following:

- Performing two contrasting pieces. If time allows, the students will play both pieces in full; however, it may be necessary to curtail one or both pieces at an appropriate moment.
- A short discussion will follow, based upon both the self-assessment (which the student completes in advance) and their performance of the two pieces. Particular emphasis will be placed upon how they feel they have progressed, things that have gone particularly well and areas that they (and their teachers) consider need greater focus and attention. Wider discussions could include flagging anything new they would like to experience in their remaining time at JA and the setting of targets and aims for the forthcoming year. For older students, discussion and guidance can be given for their musical studies post-school and JA.

Composers should bring a selection of work to the assessment for discussion and, if appropriate, performance. Composers may also perform a piece on their second study if they wish.

The assessment is not judged on a pass or fail basis. Rather, the assessment is a monitoring process, gauging the progress of each student. It is important to note that the assessment will not be judging students relative to others in either their year or their instrument; rather, the process is focused entirely on the individual and helping them to achieve the most from their time at JA.

The Director will take notes on the students' performances and discussions. These are for record-keeping purposes only and will not be disclosed to students or parents. The Director may refer to these notes in the future for a number of reasons: e.g. when deciding orchestra personnel and seating for a new year, allocating chamber groups, writing student references for scholarship and grant applications and so on. An overall grade is given, but again, these are disclosed to neither students nor parents. Teachers are welcome and encouraged to discuss an assessment of their student with the Director after it has taken place.