

Music

General comments

Austria is known to many as one of the countries most closely related to music with big names of the past like Mozart, Haydn and Strauss. It has brought forth not only famous composers but also performers, conductors, pop-stars, great jazz-musicians and many other performers.

The music-program in Austrian public schools focuses on this rich heritage as well as the role of music in our modern-day age. There is strong focus on conveying knowledge as well as practical skills since exactly this mixture ensures progress in musical culture. Since there is a special system of so called music-schools (Landesmusikschulen) offering high-quality education on various instruments, most schools typically do not have band or orchestra programs. In the upper years the music class can be understood as a music appreciation course, giving background information, linking to other subjects and allowing practical experiences making music of various times and styles.

There are no specifically musical prerequisite skills or knowledge to enter year 1. The program in the following years then builds on what was learnt at earlier stages.

Year 1

Singing: Focus on basic vocal techniques; simple rounds and basic two-part singing

- 1) Human voice
- 2) Pitches
- 3) Rhythm, pulse, note durations, meter
- 4) Basic knowledge about various instruments
- 5) Describing music
- 6) Step or not, ST/WT ↔ STS/WTS
- 7) Composers (life and work): e.g. Mozart, Strauss family
- 8) Major-scale
- 9) One- and two-part forms

Year 2

Singing: continuation of techniques from year 1; more 2-part singing and rounds

- 1) Rhythm: repetition and expansion (e.g. dotted notes, syncopated rhythms)
- 2) Intervals
- 3) Major-scales and minor-scales
- 4) Thirds and triads
- 5) Composers (life and work): e.g. Beethoven, Haydn
- 6) Forms: theme and variations, rondo
- 7) Musical taste

Year 3

Singing: continuation of techniques from year 1+2;

- 1) Instruments
- 2) Circle of fifths
- 3) Simple chord progressions
- 4) Composers (life and work): e.g. Schubert
- 5) Triads and inversions
- 6) Vocal and instrumental forms: e.g. opera, musical, oratorio, concerto, symphony, Liedform, song

Year 4

(only 1 hour per week OR 2 hours per week for one semester)

Singing: including representative songs of pop-history

- 1) Careers in music
- 2) Overview of music-history, present to past

Year 5

- 1) Instruments and the human voice
- 2) Basic elements of music
- 3) Tonal systems and their application
- 4) Development and forms of notation (continued in year 7 and 8)

Year 6

(only 1 hour per week OR 2 hours per week for one semester)

- 1) Program-music
- 2) Polyphony ↔ Homophony
- 3) Overview of vocal and instrumental forms
- 4) Dramatic music
- 5) Forms: simple forms

Year 7

(optional as alternative subject for year 7 and 8 – choose from drama, visual arts and music)

- 1) Medieval music
- 2) Renaissance music
- 3) Baroque music
- 4) Viennese Classic

Year 8

(optional as alternative subject for year 7 and 8 – choose from drama, visual arts and music)

- 1) Early Romantic
- 2) High- and late Romantic
- 3) Musical contrasts and stylistic varieties in the first half of the 20th century
- 4) Musical contrasts and stylistic varieties in the second half of the 20th century
- 5) Musical-époques – changes in music throughout time