

Understanding musical scores

oufuturelearnmusicalscorevid1068

NAOMI:

Hello. I'm Naomi.

KATHERINE:

I'm Katherine.

NAOMI:

Welcome to this Open University short course on understanding musical scores.

KATHERINE:

Here we are at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, where we've been recording some films for this course and talking with musicians about how they work with musical scores.

NAOMI:

Have you ever seen a musical score in a museum and wondered why it was so important? The object itself may be a tatty pile of paper, or it may be a beautifully bound book. But it has a story to tell. To a musician, a score is a fundamental tool of the trade. It has all the information that they need for learning, rehearsing, performing, and composing pieces of music.

But every musician thinks about scores differently. They look at them differently, think about them differently, and work with them in different ways.

KATHERINE:

Musicals scores might seem a bit confusing and mysterious, and you might think that it takes years of training to be able to decipher all the dots and lines. It's certainly true that scores do contain all of the information. But you don't necessarily have to be able to read music be able to understand a little bit about how a musician's used them. Thinking about how musicians make a performance in this way can help you enjoy listening to music in a completely different way.

So in this course, we'll be explaining how musicians work with scores, studying scores for different types of music, and discussing them with musicians who use them on a day to day basis. If

you've ever wondered what a conductor does or how an ensemble rehearses, we'll be exploring those questions over the next few weeks. But fundamentally, a musical score needs to be interpreted and turned into sound. We'll be talking to a pianist, a conductor, and some ensemble musicians who will all share their insights into the way in which they use musical scores and turn those dots and lines into the spine-tingling performances that we all enjoy.

NAOMI:

We're delighted you can be with us. We really hope you enjoy this course.