

# Diversity & Inclusion in Music



We believe that young people should feel represented and included in the music that they study. So, in summer 2021, we asked over 300 music students for their views on studying music, on diversity, and on their passion for the subject.

## What's your motivation to study music?



45% of students said that their love of playing musical instruments, performing or recording was their biggest motivation to studying music.

## There were many other motivations too...

"I was good at music and saw it as something I could do well in"



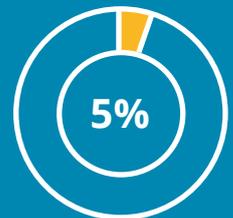
"I want to have a career in music in the future"



"I enjoy listening to and understanding music"



"My teacher is great and they encouraged me to choose the course"



## Were there any barriers that made it harder to choose music compared to another subject?

*"COVID and physical disability making it difficult to learn instruments and learn the curriculum"*

*"Not enough funding for music means not many schools offer music as a course"*

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## Diversity and Inclusion

How important are the inclusion of diverse artists and composers?



74% of students surveyed said this was 'important' or 'very important' to them.

*"A diverse range of composers being included makes for a more relatable learning experience for students of colour"*

*"Studying only a small number of songs and/or genres with similar purposes would limit one's understanding of music as a whole"*

*"It's so important to see music from different types of people and different cultures, as it widens our knowledge on the subject"*

*"The diversity of artists is important to gain more insight into the cultures around the world"*

## What's most important when studying music?

A breadth of genres



Diverse composers and artists



Artists and composers from all over the world



Students rate diversity and representation high in their list of priorities, understanding how learning from different perspectives and cultures can enhance their educational experience.

## Broadening their musical experience and enjoying the music they study is also important...



It is important to study the music you enjoy listening to **65%**  
It is important to study music that you wouldn't normally choose to listen to **65%**

*"As a music artist you need to be exposed to a range of artists and backgrounds to expand your creativity"*

## It's also important to:

**64%** Learn about significant artists from the past

**45%** Study artists and composers that are still alive

**25%** Study British artists and composers

**60%** Study music that you can listen to and enjoy away from the classroom

**33%** Study music that relates to you personally

**28%** Study music you can play yourself

**56%** Study music that challenges you

**29%** Study music your teacher enjoys teaching

**21%** Study music you can discuss at university



## Qualification Design

Music needs to be studied around our chosen music, to give context and comparison, but if it were up to students, who should decide what music they study?

The teachers and students together should choose all the music the course covers



The exam board should recommend music teachers and students should choose from 39%



We're committed to working together with schools and young people to drive change and create learning environments that inspire young musicians.

## Our commitment

### Supporting diversity, equity and inclusion in education

We believe in equal opportunity for all learners, whatever their background, ability, sexuality or identity – and we are committed to working together with schools and learners to create learning environments and qualifications that reflect the diversity of the modern world and its people.

### Working with industry partners

To ensure our music qualifications remain relevant and market leading, we're working with a number of organisations to share and develop best practice in the study of music qualifications in the UK.



### Inspiration in Music

We're working to improve the Music specifications across Pearson's qualifications portfolio to ensure young people feel inspired by the range of composers they study. Our aim is to help all students shape their own work within music and inspire them into future careers in the music industry.



### Join the conversation

To join the conversation and share your feedback and suggestions, please get in touch with our subject advisor, Jeffrey Hole, or complete our short online form.

