



The Newnham Music Essay Prize 2021-22

The Newnham Music Essay Prize is open to all **female students currently in Year 12** (Lower Sixth) at a maintained sector UK school. It is designed to give students the opportunity to think and write about music in its broadest context, while developing their independent study and writing skills. Through exposure to the type of work they might be expected to do at Cambridge, we hope high flying students will be encouraged to consider applying to the University – and hopefully even to Newnham, where women’s history and educational excellence are, of course, central.

This prize may be of particular interest to those studying Music or History; but we welcome entries from interested students studying any combination of subjects. Entrants are invited to submit a response to any **one** of the questions overleaf, which should be between 1,500 and 2,500 words (including footnotes and captions). All sources must be appropriately acknowledged and cited, and a bibliography – including websites consulted – should be attached (though excluded from the word count). Up to **four** entries may be submitted per school.

Newnham will be running a programme of essay writing skills advice and guidance webinars in the new year. Dates and information can be found [here](#).

Each of the Newnham Essay Prizes have a first prize of £400, a second prize of £200 and a third prize of £100. Prize money is split 50:50 between the Essay Prize winner and the funding of resources for their school.

The [completed cover sheet](#) must also be submitted. Please ensure that a school/college representative has completed the appropriate section before submission. Entries without an appropriately completed coversheet will be invalid.

Entrants should submit their entry to the webform, found here:
https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cHgegVW9EBBIKTpY

The deadline for submission is **12pm on Friday 11 March 2022**. For any queries not answered here, please contact essayprizes@newn.cam.ac.uk.

The Music Essay Prize 2021-22 Questions

- 1) How have improvements in transport and communications infrastructure affected the history of music – and in what ways might they do so in future?
- 2) Evaluate the challenges and opportunities presented to musical culture in a time of global pandemic.
- 3) In some ways music can be thought of as the ultimate interdisciplinary subject, but it is also highly specialised in other respects. Examine this paradox in the context of the debate about music’s role in primary and secondary education.