The Newnham Music Essay Prize 2017-18

The Newnham Music Essay Prize is open to all girls currently in Year 12 (Lower Sixth) at a 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 highflying 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 five entries may be submitted per school.

Each of the Newnham Essay Prizes has a first prize of £400, a second prize of £200, and third prize of £100.

Entrants should upload their submissions to the webform, found here: http://www.newn.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduates/newnham-essay-prizes/

The cover sheet should also be uploaded to this webform. Please ensure that a school/college representative has completed the appropriate section. Entries will not be valid without this information.

The deadline is 12pm on Friday 9th March 2018. For any queries not answered here, please contact Sophie Parry (Schools Liaison Officer) by email at slo@newn.cam.ac.uk or by telephone on 01223 330471.
The Newnham Music Essay Prize 2017-18: Questions

1. ‘Classical music’, as a term, ‘traps a tenaciously living art in a theme park of the past’. (Alex Ross)
   Discuss.

2. A musical idea … is not only an object of intrinsic beauty but also an end in itself, and not a means of representing feelings and thoughts. The essence of music is sound and motion’. (Eduard Hanslick)
   Discuss.

3. What might a feminist history of music look like?