

MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

Performance Studies 1A / 1B / 2A / 2B

This module represents the core learning experience for performers. Individual tuition is given on instrumental or vocal specialism. Solo performance is assessed at the end of the module, with the emphasis in this module being on individual technical work, studies and orchestral extracts (where applicable). Syllabuses stipulating work to be covered are made available separately.

Ensemble experience is provided by a range of ensembles, and is assessed continuously by ensemble leaders. A learning journal collates students' performance activities, providing opportunities for reflexive appraisal and for accurate record keeping.

History A: Music 1600-1900

This module will cover topics and issues relating to the following basic issues in Music 1600-1900: The changing functions of music in society, the relationship between words and music, Absolute (wordless) music, musical form and structure, Programme music, Nationalism.

Harmony And Counterpoint

This module will enhance your ability to harmonise in four parts, and refine your skills in contrapuntal writing. The module will also help develop your sense of aural discrimination, and hone your analytical facility. These skills are essential to fully appreciate, and engage with, the other Level 4 modules.

Music Analysis

The module aims to complement Harmony and Counterpoint by bringing the aural, harmonic and contrapuntal skills nurtured there to some analytical tasks.

History B: Music in the 20th Century

This module is designed to complement historical studies in semester 1, as well as providing a broad knowledge base that will equip students to progress to a variety of academic modules at level 5, including world music studies, pop and jazz studies, and 20th century music studies.

World Music Studies

This module introduces students to a wide variety of musical genres and styles throughout the world, as well as to some of the theoretical and conceptual issues involved in ethno-musicological approaches to studying music.

Negotiated Project

This module gives students with proven aptitude in performance the opportunity present a live public showcase of their work. Performers will be expected to perform live in their showcase event. All students will undertake preparatory work, programming, publicity design, marketing, co-ordination, management and presentation of their individual showcase with minimal tutor guidance and within limited and predetermined resources. The overriding aim will be to create a showcase that demonstrates originality, innovation and professionalism at all stages.

Orchestration and Arranging

This module consist of score-study alongside recordings which will play a crucial role in developing your understanding and experience of recognised techniques. This module will train you to be fluent in the comprehension of score layout, transcription, balance, spatial planning, historical and stylistic context, and texture of instruments. Students will gain an advanced working knowledge of instrumental techniques and practicalities.

Students will orchestrate/arrange, for example, piano works, songs or chamber works for a variety of instrumental groupings, and will also encounter the particular logistical and creative challenges faced when material requires downsizing to smaller forces than those of the original work; given the present economic difficulties facing the music industry along with the rest of society, this is a vital skill to acquire, not least with an eye to the film music world.