

Advanced Diploma in Music – Performance Track

Modules Description

Students will undertake the following modules during their course of study:

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.

Music in Context: 1600-1900

This module explores western music, focusing mainly on the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, although some earlier music may be considered. It will introduce the recognised music periods, their major genres and forms, and examine their characteristic stylistic features.

This will take place largely through a study of relevant issues (genre, form, structure etc.) and detailed examination of representative works by significant composers. The module will include some examples of the relationship between music theory and practice, and discuss the various functions of music.

Harmony And Counterpoint

This module enhances students' ability to harmonise in four parts, and refine their skills in contrapuntal writing. The module also helps develop students' sense of aural discrimination and 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. These include the critical examination of seminal works, using scores and recordings.

Compositional devices will be examined in detail, enabling students to identify and understand them when they are heard or seen in context of the music. In so doing, students will be encouraged to develop their awareness of both the function and currency of compositional devices within a wide range of styles and genres.

The New Music and Beyond: 1900 – Present Day

This module is designed to complement historical studies at Level 4, as well as providing a knowledge base of 20th century music. It will develop research and critical skills essential for successful study at levels 5 and 6.

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.

Music Enterprise

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, coordination, 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.

Advanced Diploma in Music – Recording Track

Modules Description

Pop Performance Studies 1A and 1B (Pop Performers) / Performance 1A and 1B (Jazz/Classical Performers)

Performance studies modules represent the core learning experience for performers on the BMus degree. Students may choose between studying pop, jazz or classical music. Individual tuition is given on their principal instrument. 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). Ensemble experience is provided in pop performance workshops (Pop Performance Studies 1A/1B), or by a range of ensembles (Performance 1A/1B), and is assessed continuously by ensemble leaders.

Pop Performance Studies 2 / Performance 2

Students may choose between studying pop, jazz or classical music. This module will help students further develop their individual performance skills with a focus on dealing with live events and a range of relevant stage skills.

Audio Theory for Performance

This is largely a theoretically based module designed to give students a solid grounding in the theory and practice of appreciating and recording audio at a professional level. There will be an introduction to the physics and propagation of sound - designed to familiarise the student with the terminology used by professional audio engineers and record producers. In addition, there will be a tour through the multi-track recording environment, covering all of the fundamental aspects of theory and technique. A programme of "ear training" will encourage a greater appreciation and understanding of audio production and recording.

Desktop Composition

This module looks at composing and creating music on computer-based systems. It examines theory and practice in the composition and production of popular electronic music through the analysis of historical examples, discussion of musical genres, and principles of sound synthesis, sampling, sequencing and music production. Students will become confident in composing instrumental tracks and creating remixes, using professional MIDI sequencer programs, hardware

and software synthesizers and samplers, the application of production techniques and publication of finished mixes on CD and in online formats.

Studio Recording 1

This module is a practical continuation of the audio theory module and it covers all aspects of the recording studio and the recording process. The module will extend the ear-training techniques and examine each component of the studio in detail. In addition, it will address the techniques of recording coupled to the technology, providing each student with a backbone of knowledge designed to help the recording demands of the second year. The module is primarily concerned with the gaining of skills necessary for the practical use of contemporary studio recording systems. Students will work in groups to perform and record a complete project in the studio.

Studio Recording 2

This module develops the creative engineering skills gained from the Studio Recording 1 module. It includes session planning skills, production/mixing skills and modern recording techniques. Students will be encouraged to take responsibility for complete productions in a professional standard studio, and they will experience the pressures of working and performing in a near commercial environment within set time constraints.

The module teaches appreciation of transferable skills such as programming and critical analysis, skills vital to the completion of set projects. This module requires students to take these skills and start thinking like a professional by learning to plan sessions efficiently, and their assignment work will be assessed on their artistic production decisions as well as their technical proficiency. Additionally lectures will include discussion and debate, requiring a high level of critical reflection and analysis.

Introduction to Music Management

The module is designed to develop an understanding of the mechanics of music production and marketing and give students a clear idea of their employment opportunities within the industry. Students will gain an appreciation and knowledge of the development of the role of the manager in today's global music and entertainment industry. They will gain a grounding of key skills and knowledge appropriate to managing and developing an artist across all genres. Students will also receive grounding in key figures within the industry and support organizations available to them to develop their professional careers.

Composition and Arranging

This module focuses on the analysis and composition of popular music in various generic styles and it examines compositional techniques used by contemporary songwriters. It further develops the arranging skills developed up to this point and enables students to use theoretical and analytical skills in composition in a variety of popular music styles using a small ensemble in the popular music idiom. The module also expands the students' skills in music processing and programming technology.

Composing and Arranging Workshop

The module will equip students with the ability to compose and arrange songs for a diverse range of instrumentation in a number of contemporary music styles. The module will facilitate students with extensive practical composition and arrangement techniques using sequencing and traditional

scoring where appropriate.

Music Recording Portfolio

This module requires each student to complete an individual set portfolio of three recorded tracks to a professional standard. This will be based upon the students' individual areas of musical interest using relevant skills. This will expose each student to a 'real life' environment where a set task must be completed to professional standards and to a deadline. The module will require students to perform on the three tracks, as well as organising and directing musicians for all the required parts. This module is a preparation for the final music technology showcase project in the next year.

Live Concert Management

This module will look at the practical, technical and legal aspects of live events. It will also include practical methods of promotion and marketing. This is a vibrant and expanding area of the music industry, where there are many opportunities for performing musicians.

Music Theory 1

This module has been designed in order to provide students with the relevant theoretical skills which will allow them to become informed, versatile and able musicians, whose theoretical understanding both enhances and supports their practical abilities. The key intention of this module is that students obtain a skill set which can be integrated into their practical skills – rather than viewing music theory as a separate, unrelated topic area.

Think Music Technology

This module acquaints all music students with the mechanics and skills of academic writing, referencing and research skills. It addresses the fact that most students are technically oriented but would also need to know the vocabulary and writing skills for coping with an academic degree.

Advanced Diploma in Music – Management Track

Modules Description

Professional Skills for Business and Finance

This module will help you become more critical, evaluative, self-aware, self-confident, and more skilled and capable in how you use information and resources. These are essential literacy skills for effective research and study in Higher Education. This module will also help you improve your ability to make sense of new information, and your skills in questioning, data-gathering, reasoning, drawing valid conclusions and spotting bad arguments.

Introduction to Technology

This module will introduce students to the fundamental principles behind the operation of a range of live event and recording technology. This will include basic audio and lighting systems through to set ups for larger events. The module will also explore the roles and responsibilities of people employed in these fields. It will be necessary to cover the basic scientific principles of sound and power distribution.

People Management and Negotiation Skills

This module will explore the psychological relationships involved in effective people management. It will also help develop the students' negotiation skills and confidence. There will be an opportunity to test these skills through role-play situations.

Introduction to Music and Media Law

This module will explore the ever increasing role of law and intellectual copyright in the world of music and the cultural industries and will draw upon real life case studies to explore legal precedents within the music business.

Music Video Production

This module is designed as a practical foundation and aims to provide students with a working knowledge of key terms in film and the established industry conventions. It covers the basic concepts and fundamental disciplines necessary in production; techniques in pre-production planning; team-building; digital camera operation; lighting; sound; and simple non-linear editing techniques.

The Role of Music Management

The module is designed to develop an understanding of the mechanics of music production and marketing and give students a clear idea of their employment opportunities within the industry. Students will gain an appreciation and knowledge of the development of the role of the manager in today's global music and entertainment industry. They will gain a grounding of key skills and knowledge appropriate to managing and developing an artist across all genres. Students will also receive grounding in key figures within the industry and support organizations available to them to develop their professional careers.

PR and Publicity

This module will explore contemporary public relations and publicity practices in the music and wider entertainment industries to provide grounding in industry standard publicity, including working with other performers in the college.

Agency and Promoters

This module provides an introduction to the workings of agents and promoters and the field of live music, currently at the centre of the wider music business and will include case studies of events, concert tours and festivals.

Collections Societies and Industry Associations

Students will investigate the various income streams available to composers, artistes, musicians and producers. This module is the key introduction to copyright administration, and how income is collected and distributed to rights holders. It will introduce students to the key collection societies responsible for the distribution of royalties generated from copyrights, in addition to key support associations within the industry.

Enterprise and Business Development

This module defines and helps students acquire the personal and professional skills needed in order to develop a professional career and/or to succeed as entrepreneurs in small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Students will be aided in their reflection of their own abilities and aspirations, and assisted in the preparation of their "career management portfolio". They are then

encouraged to develop an understanding of the entrepreneurial skills necessary to set up and run a successful business. Students working in groups are finally assisted in the preparation of a viable business startup plan.

Creative Promotion and Marketing Communications

In addition to above-the-line media such as poster and press, advertising practitioners are also required to produce below-the-line or promotional activities and through-the-line or integrated marketing communications. This module will consider the concept of these approaches to marketing communications, examining the various options available from both a theoretical and practical aspect. Each medium will be considered a communication and promotional tool in the achievement of marketing communication objectives. Students will work on client briefs, exploring a variety of communication problems, develop a promotional plan and execute the campaign.

Touring Logistics And Planning

This module is a key foundation to understanding the mechanics and responsibilities of those working within the managerial sector of the live industry. A current practitioner teaches this module with many years of experience working worldwide.