

Foundation Degree in Music Performance

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.

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 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.

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.

Negotiated Project

This module gives students with proven aptitude in performance the opportunity to 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.