

BA Music

UCAS code: W300

Awarding Institution: The University of Reading
Teaching Institution: The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s): Music
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Programme length: 3 years
For students entering Part 1 in 2003
Date of specification: February 2004
Programme Director: Dr C. R. Wilson
Programme Adviser: Dr C. R. Wilson
Board of Studies: Music

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to provide a thorough degree-level education in Music with an emphasis on the integration of the musical sub-disciplines composing, listening and performing, and an appreciation of the wider issues in Western classical, popular, film, and non-Western musics, including the ability to produce effective written commentary on these areas.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

As part of this programme students are expected to have gained experience and show competence in the following transferable skills: IT (word-processing, using standard notation software, using databases), critical writing, oral and skills-based presentation, team-working, problem-solving, use of library and archive resources, time-management, career planning and management, and cultural awareness.

Programme content

The profile which follows states which modules must be taken (compulsory modules) and modules from which the student must make a selection (optional modules). Students choose their optional modules for Parts 2 and 3 in consultation with their personal tutor. Each Part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 students will take four 20-credit modules and either a further two 20-credit modules or 40 credits from modules available elsewhere in the University. Part 1 develops skills in performing and composing, as well as in understanding and writing about music and musical life. Part 2 introduces project-based modules which enable the in-depth exploration of various musical topics through a multi-layered approach (incorporating, where relevant, performance, composition, analysis, critical thinking and research). Students continue to gain credit for participation in approved musical ensembles. In Part 3 students take further project-based modules and continue to participate in musical ensembles, as well as specialising in one or two of the following: performance, composition, musicology. In Parts 2 and 3 up to 20 credits can be taken from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Not all modules will necessarily be offered every year.

| Part 1 (three terms) | | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------|--------------|
| MU1CC | <i>Contemporary Composition</i> | 20 | C |
| MU1MP | <i>Music Production</i> | 20 | C |
| MU1PS | <i>Performance Studies</i> | 20 | C |
| MU1POP | <i>Popular Music</i> | 20 | C |
| MU1PM | <i>Practical Music</i> | 20 | C |
| MU1WML | <i>Western Music's Landmarks and Landscapes</i> | 20 | C |

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory module

| | | | |
|-------|---|----|---|
| MU2PM | <i>Practical Music (including career management skills)</i> | 20 | I |
|-------|---|----|---|

Compulsory project modules

Three projects chosen from:

| | | | |
|-------|--|----|---|
| MU2DM | <i>'The Devil in Music'</i> | 20 | I |
| MU2KB | <i>'The Keyboard'</i> | 20 | I |
| MU2LD | <i>'Love, Melancholy & Death in Elizabethan Times'</i> | 20 | I |
| MU2MW | <i>'Music/Words'</i> | 20 | I |
| MU2UM | <i>'Understanding Music'</i> | 20 | I |

Optional modules:

| | | | |
|--------|---|----|---|
| MU2FDM | <i>Further Studies: 'The Devil in Music'</i> | 10 | I |
| MU2FKB | <i>Further Studies: 'The Keyboard'</i> | 10 | I |
| MU2FLD | <i>Further Studies: 'Love, Melancholy & Death in Elizabethan Times'</i> | 10 | I |
| MU2FMW | <i>Further Studies: 'Music/Words'</i> | 10 | I |
| MU2FUM | <i>Further Studies: 'Understanding Music'</i> | 10 | I |
| MU2AE | <i>Arts Exchange</i> | 10 | I |
| MU2MP | <i>Music Production</i> | 20 | I |
| MU2PF | <i>Performance Recital</i> | 20 | I |
| MU2PME | <i>Practical Music essay</i> | 10 | I |

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory module

| | | | |
|-------|------------------------|----|---|
| MU3PM | <i>Practical Music</i> | 20 | H |
|-------|------------------------|----|---|

Students take **either** two project modules and one individual project module **or** one project module and two individual project modules:

Project modules:

| | | | |
|-------|--|----|---|
| MU3DM | <i>'The Devil in Music'</i> | 20 | H |
| MU3KB | <i>'The Keyboard'</i> | 20 | H |
| MU3LD | <i>'Love, Melancholy & Death in Elizabethan Times'</i> | 20 | H |
| MU3MW | <i>'Music/Words'</i> | 20 | H |
| MU3UM | <i>'Understanding Music'</i> | 20 | H |

Individual project modules:

| | | | |
|-------|---|----|---|
| MU3IP | <i>Individual Project: Performance</i> | 40 | H |
| MU3ID | <i>Individual Project: Dissertation</i> | 40 | H |
| MU3IC | <i>Individual Project: Composition</i> | 40 | H |

Optional modules:

| | | | |
|--------|---|----|---|
| MU3FDM | <i>Further Studies: 'The Devil in Music'</i> | 10 | H |
| MU3FKB | <i>Further Studies: 'The Keyboard'</i> | 10 | H |
| MU3FLD | <i>Further Studies: 'Love, Melancholy & Death in Elizabethan Times'</i> | 10 | H |
| MU3FMW | <i>Further Studies: 'Music/Words'</i> | 10 | H |
| MU3FUM | <i>Further Studies: 'Understanding Music'</i> | 10 | H |
| MU3PME | <i>Practical Music Essay</i> | 10 | H |

Progression requirements

From Part 1 to Part 2 and Part 2 to Part 3: (i) an average of 40% in the Music modules taken; (ii) an overall average of 40%; (iii) no mark less than 30% in any module, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be considered, provided the candidate has pursued the course for the module with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without cause.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is organized in modules that involve a combination of lectures, seminars, tutorials and individual professional training (such as instrumental/vocal lessons). In Part 1 modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and examination. In Parts 2 and 3 modules are normally assessed by coursework. The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but you should note that weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67%.

Admission requirements

All applicants are considered on their individual merits. Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS Tariff: 260 pts (including at least 2 A2 levels one of which should be Music at grade B or higher); ABRSM Grade 8 (or equivalent) in main instrument or voice; if the piano is not the main instrument an intermediate level of piano ability is advisable.

International Baccalaureat: 30 pts (including music at higher level)

Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBBC (Music B)

Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study (such as A levels or ABRSM practical or theory examinations), but consideration is also given to other qualifications and experience.

Applications from international candidates are also welcomed. If international applicants are not offering A levels, they are advised to contact the admissions tutor to discuss the acceptability of their qualifications. IELTS Band 7 (or equivalent) will be required for those whose education has not been undertaken in English.

Admissions Tutor: Dr Christopher Wildon (tel. 0118 931 8411; email c.r.wilson@reading.ac.uk)

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

Within the Music department additional support is provided through individual tutorials and subject-specific training in the Music Library from information specialists. Support for students in their studies is also provided through the University's Personal Academic Record (PAR) Scheme, in which students meet their personal tutors regularly to review their progress. Further details of the programme, as well as general information about the departmental and services provided by the university, are found in the Departmental Handbook which is issued to all students. The department provides students with access to a variety of musical instruments, specialist music software and hardware, and the extensive print, on-line, audio and visual materials in the Music Library.

Career prospects

A large number of professional career destinations are open to students on this programme, including musical paths such as performance, composition, research and management. Specific and transferable skills enable students to enter many fields of work in education, the media, commerce and industry, the arts and other professions such as law, accountancy and information technology.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

The Socrates programme can provide for Music students to spend one term at another European university at an agreed time after Part 1.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme seeks to develop students' practical skills in music as well as their awareness of and intellectual curiosity about a range of musics and the contexts within which those musics are created and consumed. Students will have been able to develop their individual talents and interests as well as developing a range of transferable skills of potential value to future employers.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

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| <p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A range of approaches in musicological study.2. Topics in Western classical, popular and world musics, including cultural, social and historical issues.3. How to compose both original and imitative music.4. How to perform music.5. Techniques of music analysis. | <p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminars and individual tutorials and vocal/instrumental tuition), guided independent research and the writing of essays, reports, music, and analytical notation and through public and workshop performance. Part 1 offers a broad introduction to 1-5. In Part 2 and 3 the understanding and skills acquired in Part 1 are developed and Part 3 also introduces more specialised study concentrating on 2, 3, 4 or 5.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>In Part 1 knowledge and understanding of 1-5 are tested through a combination of essays, written and verbal reports, written examinations (both unseen and prepared), composition portfolio (including electronic recordings) and musical performance. In Parts 2 and 3 all of the above applies but in addition a choice must be made between writing a dissertation, assembling a composition portfolio or giving a public recital. Throughout the programme students will be given credit for their participation in approved University music making.</p> |
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Skills and other attributes

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| <p>B. Intellectual skills: able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrate a capacity for independent thought and critical writing.2. Use musical and historical resources as evidence.3. Assimilate and communicate complex musical structures. | <p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Intellectual skills are acquired through lectures, independent musical study, seminar preparation and discussion, essay writing, workshop performance, and individual tutorials (1-3).</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>1-3 are assessed both continually in project assessment and at module exit standard in examinations in Parts 1-3 and the Individual Project in Part 3.</p> |
|---|---|

C. Practical skills: able to:

1. Play music with an appropriate command over accuracy, style and presentation.
2. Compose music with an appropriate command of the relevant technical requirements.
3. Conduct a critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches.
4. Demonstrate information retrieval skills.
5. Apply appropriate conventions in the presentation of all assessed work.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 and 2 are developed by vocational training, including workshops. 3-5 are developed through lectures, independent musical study, seminar preparation and discussion, essay writing, workshop performance, and individual tutorials. 4 is developed in close liaison with specialist Library personnel.

Assessment

The practice-based nature of a music programme means that all practical skills are assessed in a broader knowledge-based context as well as exit performance (such as in Part 3 a solo recital, dissertation or composition portfolio).

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. Use IT (including word-processing, standard notation software and databases).
2. Use library and archival resources.
3. Write fluently and critically.
4. Give effective oral and skills-based presentations.
5. Work as part of a team.
6. Solve problems effectively.
7. Manage time.
8. Plan and manage future careers.
9. Assimilate cultural issues.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Transferable skills are developed through seminars and tutorials (1-9), workshops (4-6), vocational training (4-8), independent learning (1-4, 6-9), examinations (3, 4, 6, 7) and individual projects (1-9).

Assessment

Due to the project-based nature of the music programme transferable skills are integrally assessed in all modules. Increasing emphasis is placed on 8 and 9 in Parts 2 and 3.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme handbooks.