

## **MA in Music Theory and Analysis**

Awarding Institution:  
Teaching Institution:  
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s):  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
For students entering in October 2003  
2003  
Programme Director: Prof. J.M. Dunsby  
Programme Adviser:  
Board of Studies: Music  
Accreditation: None

The University of Reading  
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Music  
Programme length: 1 year (2 yrs PT)  
Date of specification: September

### **Summary of programme aims**

This programme aims to provide teaching and learning in the application of modern music-analytical thinking to a wide range of music, and the study of the theoretical origins of that thinking. Students will be able to provide technical accounts of Western music from a variety of periods and styles using recognized analytical techniques allied to individual critical response. Independent study is promoted and teaching is geared toward the individual development of students to provide an underpinning for further development in theoretical and analytical studies at doctoral level or its equivalent as well as offering a satisfying and rewarding experience those who take the MA as an end in itself.

### **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.

Students will also be:

- Able to analyse and think critically about complex texts and issues.
- Able to assess the legitimacy of an argument and to articulate complex theory.
- Aware of the methods and resources needed to develop their knowledge and understanding as part of an ability to learn independently.
- Able to communicate clearly to others their own thinking and the reasons for it.

### **Programme content**

The programme consists of 180 credits: 60 in the Analysis Portfolio (MUMANP); 60 in the Analysis Essay (MUMANE); 30 in the required History of Theory module (MUMHTY); and 30 in an optional module chosen from Aesthetics (MUMAES), Composition Exercises (MUMCOE), Criticism (MUMCRT), Historical Performance Practice (MUMHPP) or Notation (MUMNOT).

The Analysis Portfolio will include consolidation in Schenkerian and pc-set techniques and developments of them including for example post-tonal voice leading and pc-genera theory. There will also be an introduction to semiological methodology including the theory of semiotics. One portfolio item (see Summary of Teaching and Assessment) should include evidence of awareness of recent trends in 'new-musicological' research issues.

The Analysis Essay will focus on a specific piece of music, a repertoire for comparative analysis, or a theoretical, aesthetic or other appropriate issue for discussion and exemplification. The student will be advised by the module convenor on finding a balance of topics so that duplication

between the Analysis Portfolio and the Essay is either avoided or is exploited as an integral feature of the overall knowledge and understanding as well as skills evident from the student's work.

In the compulsory History of Theory module students will be able to study and write about an aspect of the history of Western music theory. Students will be able to demonstrate a familiarity with current critical approaches and their theoretical and methodological underpinning and be conversant with a range of secondary literature on theory.

### **Compulsory Modules (students choose on option)**

MUMANP	Analysis Portfolio	60 credits	Level M
MUMANE	Analysis Essay	60 credits	Level M
MUMHTY	History of Theory	30 credits	Level M

### **Optional Modules**

MUMAES	Aesthetics	30 credits	Level M
MUMCOE	Composition Exercises	30 credits	Level M
MUMMUC	Criticism	30 credits	Level M
MUMNOT	Notation	30 credits	Level M
MUMHPP	Historical Performance Practice	30 credits	Level M

### **Part-Time/Modular arrangements**

The programme can be taken part-time over two years. In the first year of study, a student will normally complete the Analysis Portfolio and the History of Theory compulsory module; in the second year of study, a student will be required to complete the Analysis Essay and optional module. The programme may not be completed over more than two years.

### **Progression requirements**

Students can earn a Certificate for satisfactory completion of 60 credits but less than 120 credits and a Diploma for 120 credits but less than 180 in which cases at least 60 credits must be in work for the Analysis Portfolio MUMANP.

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

<u>Mark</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
70 – 100%	Distinction
60 – 69%	Merit
50 – 59%	Good standard (Pass)
<u>Failing categories:</u>	
40 – 49%	Work below threshold standard
0 – 39%	Unsatisfactory Work

### *For Masters Degrees*

To pass the degree of Master students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the portfolio and essay. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must be less than 60 credits.\*

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of 70 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be awarded a Merit.

### *For Postgraduate Diplomas*

To pass the Postgraduate Diploma students must gain an average mark of 50 or more *and have no mark below 40 in the portfolio or essay*. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must be less than 60 credits.\*

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for the award of a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more and have no mark below 40 will be awarded a Merit.

### *For Postgraduate Certificate*

To pass the Postgraduate Certificate students must gain an average mark of 50 or more *and have no mark below 40 in any compulsory module*. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.\*

\*The provision to permit a candidate to be passed overall with a profile containing marks below 40 is made subject to the condition that there is evidence that the candidate applied himself or herself to the work of those modules with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

### **Summary of teaching and assessment**

Teaching methods will vary from module to module but teaching will primarily be by means of lectures, individual and group tutorial and seminars.

The Analysis module will be assessed by:

- A portfolio of up to 3 exercises in music analysis from the tonal and post-tonal repertoire, but not excluding other repertoires such as early music, and popular and world musics, where relevant to the student's interests and the overall aims of the programme, to be submitted by June.
- An essay (research paper) not exceeding 10,000 words to be submitted in September.

The History of Theory module will be assessed by a research paper of not more than 7,000 words to be submitted by June.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained an undergraduate honours degree in music normally at upper second class level.

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and Music may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

Admissions Tutor: Prof. J.M. Dunsby

### **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 Music, personal and academic tutors will provide help and guidance on academic and, where appropriate, other matters. Music offers the provision of a specialist Music Library including scores and recordings of Western Music from the medieval period to the present as well as some holdings of popular and world musics. We also offer on-site computing including MIDI equipment and notation software such as Sibelius®.

### **Career prospects**

A postgraduate music degree provides an excellent training in intellectual and organizational skills of interest to a wide variety of potential employers. It also enables the student to proceed to higher-degree research in music and related fields (eg music psychology, music therapy).

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

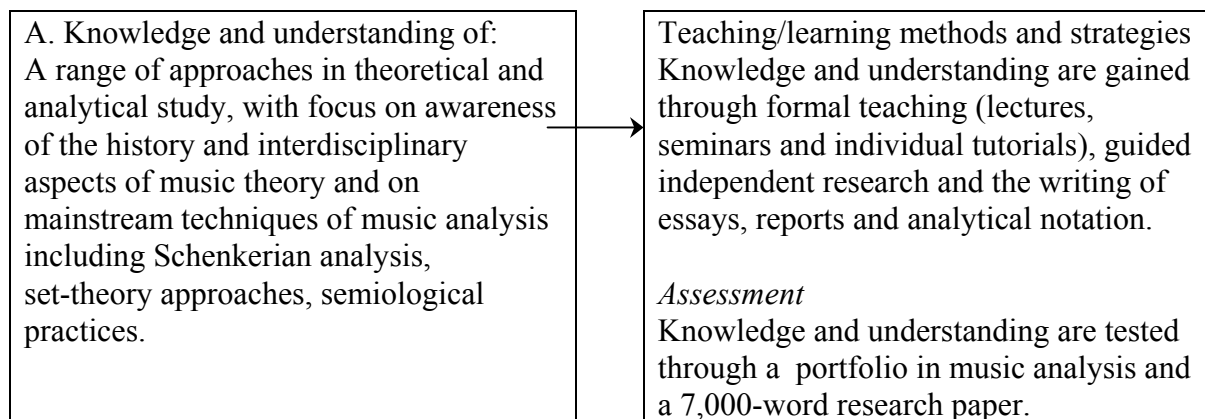
The programme does not involve study abroad.

### **Educational aims of the programme**

The overarching aim is to provide a programme of study which affords a conceptual framework for the technical study of music and the detailed theoretical knowledge and practical experience required to be an informed practitioner in this area. As well as specific knowledge of music theory and analysis, students should acquire the advanced intellectual and practical skills expected of students with a postgraduate qualification.

### **Programme Outcomes**

#### *Knowledge and Understanding*



*Skills and other attributes*

<p>B. Intellectual skills: able to: Demonstrate a capacity for independent thought and critical writing. Use complex musical and historical resources as evidence. Assimilate and communicate complex musical structures.</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies Intellectual skills are acquired through lectures, independent musical study, seminar preparation and discussion, essay writing, and individual tutorials (1-3).</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> As above.</p>
<p>C. Practical skills: able to: Analyse music at an advanced level using recognized, appropriate techniques. Conduct a critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches. Demonstrate information retrieval skills. Apply appropriate conventions in the presentation of all assessed work.</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies As above.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> As above.</p>
<p>D. Transferable skills – able to:  Identify and use appropriate IT (including word-processing, standard notation software and databases). Use library and archival resources. Write fluently and critically. Give effective oral and skills-based presentations. Work as part of a team. Solve problems effectively. Manage time. Assimilate cultural issues.</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies As above.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Transferable skills are integrally assessed in all modules.</p>

*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.