

MMus in Performance

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: 1 year (2 yrs PT)
For students entering in October 2003	Date of specification: September 2003
Programme Director: Dr C.R. Wilson	
Programme Adviser:	
Board of Studies: Music	
Accreditation: None.	

Summary of programme aims

This programme aims to promote individual excellence in solo playing, singing or accompaniment, and to expose students to academically related issues. Students will be able to perform music in public to a high level of achievement and demonstrate their contextual understanding of musical structure and styles and the role of presentation relevant to the repertoire chosen. Independent study is promoted and teaching is geared towards the individual development of students to professional standards in accuracy, style, and presentation in musical performance.

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:

- Act independently in planning tasks.
- Use feedback to reflect on achievement.
- Assess levels of skill and progress.
- Research a variety of sources in libraries and on the internet.
- Develop professional capabilities including working to very strict deadlines and demanding time management.

Programme content

The programme consists of 180 credits: 90 in the Performance Recital module (MUMPER); 30 in the compulsory Historical Performance Practice module (MUMHPP); and 60 (30 + 30) chosen from Aesthetics (MUMAES), Composition Exercises (MUMCOE), Criticism (MUMCRT), History of Theory (MUMHOT) and Notation (MUMNOT).

Compulsory Modules

MUMPER	Performance Recital	90 credits	Level M
MUMHPP	Historical Performance Practice	30 credits	Level M

Optional Modules (students choose two options)

MUMAES	Aesthetics	30 credits	Level M
MUMCOE	Composition Exercises	30 credits	Level M
MUMMUC	Criticism	30 credits	Level M

MUMHOT	History of Theory	30 credits	Level M
MUMNOT	Notation	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 Historical Performance Practice and two optional modules; in the second year of study, a student will be required to complete the Performance Recital. 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 in which case at least 60 credits must be in work towards the Performance Recital module MUMPER consisting of the qualifying examination (Recital 1) and a half-hour examination (Recital 2). Students can earn a Diploma for 120 credits but less than 180 in which case 90 credits must be in the Performance Recital.

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 recital *and a mark of at least 40 in the Historical Performance Practice module*. 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 recital or the Historical Performance Practice module*. 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 modules agreed in compulsory modules*. 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, workshops, individual and group tutorial and seminars, and by individual lessons with a vocal or instrumental specialist as appropriate in the Music Centre.

The Performance module will be assessed by:

- The 45' qualifying examination (Recital 1) in January of the final year.
- A one-hour examination (Recital 2) in September of the final year.

The Historical Performance Practice module will be assessed by a seminar paper and one exercise or project (normally an essay not exceeding 7,000 words) to be submitted in 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, and a level of achievement in solo performance (or other relevant skill) equivalent to a first class honours standard undergraduate finals recital or equivalent.

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the Department 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®. The Music Centre offers 24-hour practising spaces, most including pianos, and students have access by arrangement to the University's performance spaces including recital venues such as the Recital Room and the Bulmershe Music Studios and concert venues such as the University Great Hall. Workshops and other stimulus to a sharing of compositional issues and experiences will be provided.

Career prospects

Success in the MMus Performance programme will indicate that the student has the training, knowledge and experience to embark on or consolidate a professional career in the musical

profession, including further development in a practice-based doctoral programme. A postgraduate music degree provides an excellent training in intellectual and organizational skills of interest to a wide variety of potential employers.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

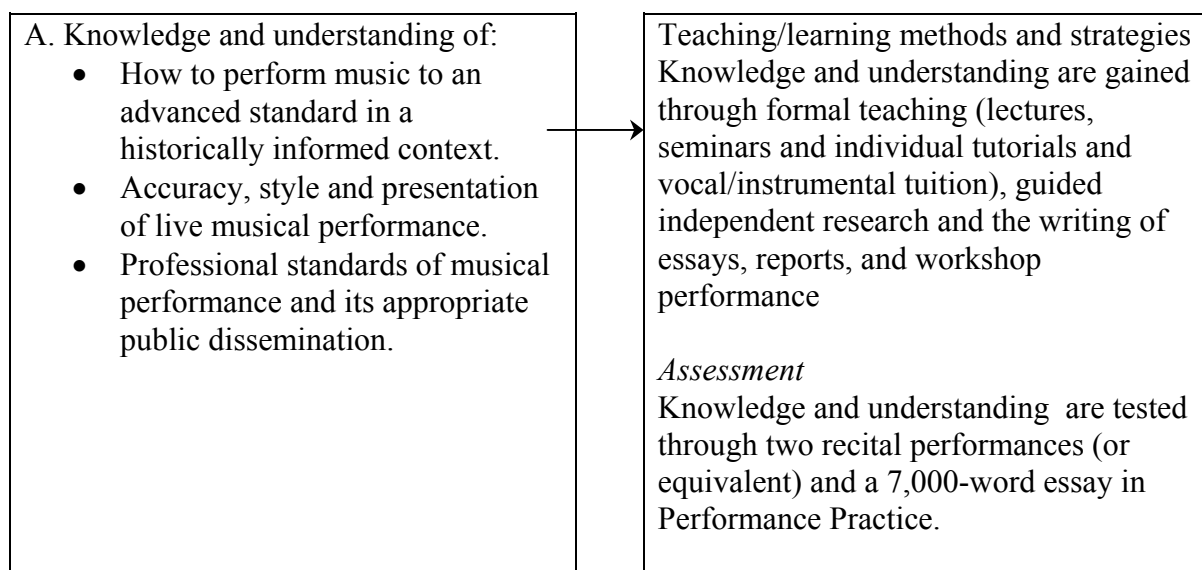
The programme does not involve study abroad.

Educational aims of the programme

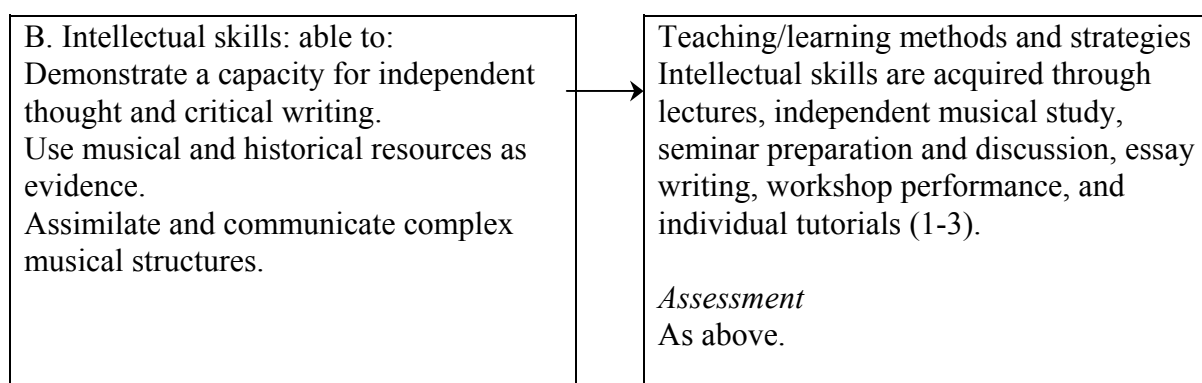
The overarching aim of this course is to provide a programme of study which affords a conceptual framework for the technical study of music concentrating on the goal of accurate, stylish and well-presented musical performance appropriate to professional activity. Students will acquire and learn how to apply contextual theoretical and historical knowledge.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding



Skills and other attributes



C. Practical skills: able to:
Perform music to an advanced standard with an appropriate command over accuracy, style and presentation.
Conduct a critical argument using relevant theoretical approaches.
Demonstrate information retrieval skills.
Apply appropriate conventions in the presentation of all assessed work.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
As above. In addition, individual specialist tuition in instrument/voice/equivalent.

Assessment
The practice-based nature of the programme means that practical skill is assessed in a broader knowledge-based context and with a strong emphasis on exit performance (recitals).

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.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
As above

Assessment
Transferable skills are integrally assessed in all modules.

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.