

BA (Honours) Music

Module Information

Year 1 - Programme Credit Structure

- Instrumental or Vocal Technique 1 24 credits
- Music Production 1 24 credits
- Music Creation 1 24 credits
- Music Skills 12 credits
- Music Professional Practice 1 12 credits
- The Context 1 12 credits
- Professional Development 1 12 credits

Instrumental Technique 1

Instrumental Technique 1 aims to develop specific instrumental skills and techniques. In addition general performance related skills (i.e. study, rehearsal, preparation and presentation skills) will be developed. A broad understanding of a range of performance related subjects (improvisation, style/genre, interpretation, and musical analysis) will be developed to provide a foundation for future development in instrumental music and/or performance.

After completing the module, you should be able to demonstrate a high level of engagement with instrumental practice, study, rehearsal, preparation, presentation and performance techniques. You will demonstrate a high level of musical and technical proficiency in performing scales, modes, chords, sight reading and prescribed technical exercises appropriate to the instrument and laid out in the instrumental syllabus. You will also be able to employ a range of improvisation and interpretation skills in a band setting; and perform in a variety of musical styles with an awareness of the characteristics of a range of musical genres and the appropriate instrumental repertoire in a manner reflecting an emerging musical personality.

Vocal Technique 1

Vocal Technique 1 aims to develop specific instrumental skills and techniques. In addition general performance related skills (i.e. study, rehearsal, preparation and presentation skills) will be developed. A broad understanding of a range of performance related subjects (style/genre, interpretation, and musical analysis) will be developed to provide a foundation for future development in vocal music and/or performance.

By the end of this module, you should be able to demonstrate a high level of engagement with vocal practice, study, rehearsal, preparation, presentation and performance techniques within an approved vocal method. You will be able to demonstrate a high level of musical and technical proficiency and control in performing the required technical exercises as laid out in the vocal syllabus; employ a range of improvisation, harmonising and interpretation skills in a group workshop setting, and perform in a variety of musical styles with an awareness of the characteristics of a range of musical genres in a manner reflecting an emerging musical personality.

Music Production 1

Music Production 1 serves as a practical and theoretical introduction to music production and recording technology through desktop recording. The module will cover a range of

industry-standard recording equipment, effects, processors, basic studio techniques and core sound recording theory. It aims to provide students with a broad skill and knowledge base that will provide a firm foundation for further development and application.

Upon completion of this module, you should be able to produce, mix and master demo quality multi-track recordings using industry standard desktop recording software. You will demonstrate a thorough operational fluency with the core functions and features of desktop recording software, including: programming software instruments, synthesisers, multi-track recording, EQ, mixing, dynamics effects and processors, employ and explain strategies to optimise musical performance and other nontechnical influences on the recording process and recall acoustic, sound recording, digital recording and signal processing theories

Music Creation 1

The primary focus of the module is the generation, development and presentation of original music. It aims to introduce students to a wide range of key concepts in creating music, as well as highlight the need for developing practical and theoretical skills along with imagination and emotional engagement.

After completing this module, you should be able to demonstrate a thorough grasp of advanced popular music theory and harmony. You will recognise, analyse and utilise the most frequently encountered forms, structures, writing and re-writing techniques, in creating new musical works / songs within specified genre and stylistic parameters and collaborate effectively as a composer and lyricist in accordance with accepted professional and legal frameworks. You will communicate specific meanings and emotions through songwriting; evaluate, reflect and act upon criticism and feedback in rewriting and crafting songs and compositions, and contribute constructive criticism and feedback to peers in the context of an emerging canon of popular contemporary and commercial music. You will also be able to produce scores and lead sheets demonstrating fundamental arranging and scoring technique using computer notation software to professional standards.

Music Skills

The Music Skills module sets out to provide students with a range of aural and rhythmic skills that will support their work and study across other modules on the degree and in particular, skills that are required for effective study at LIPA but may not have been addressed before degree entry.

By the end of this, you should be able to recognise and transcribe intervals, chords, melodies and rhythmic patterns as well as demonstrate fundamental rhythmic awareness and playing skills in Latin/African percussion.

Music Professional Practice 1

Music Professional Practice 1 aims to provide you with the opportunity to bring elements of your first year studies together in an assignment leading to music practical projects, and allow you to apply your studies through developing and planning professional activities and experimental non-formal learning events. You will be able to identify music related objectives, applying given tools/knowledge learned during the course, resolving any problems that occur and fostering an appreciation of the complexities in the music industry/discipline. This will include demonstrating an ability to plan, manage time and communicate clearly in a format appropriate to the activity.

Music Professional Practice 1 is also designed to help you develop your skills in critical appraisal and reflection required in years two and three of the programme, through defending decisions/choices during a viva.

After completing the module, you should be able to establish and engage in professionally focussed music activities based on personal musical strengths with the potential to form one or more components of a future portfolio career; perform a variety of supporting roles in professionally focussed music performance, music creation or music production activities and contribute to a specific range of professionally focussed public performances (e.g. new musical works or recordings etc.). You will be able to research, work within, evaluate and explain the professional, legal, financial, music industry and IT frameworks and practices necessary to organize, perform and present professionally focussed musical outputs.

The Context 1

The Context aims to provide students with a shared understanding of the broad, current, performing arts landscape and the disciplines which constitute it, as well as the Political, Economic, Socio-Cultural, Technological and other forces which shape the evolution of and employment in performing arts disciplines. It also aims to provide you with an understanding of essential research and writing skills.

By the end of this module, you should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the key external, contextual forces and how they shape the practice and evolution of specific sectors within individual performing arts disciplines. You will also be able to apply research, writing skills and appropriate academic conventions in communicating research outcomes.

Professional Development 1

Professional Development provides the foundation for the student journey towards sustained employment. Essential skills include an informed understanding of the event process, collaborative working and the realities of work in the performing arts. Underpinning these skills is a fundamental essential: being a learner.

By the end of the professional development module, you should be able to display an awareness of career development options within an individual performing arts discipline. You will be able to demonstrate an ability to engage in effective team working processes, and present evidence of a basic understanding of essential enterprise skills. You shall propose a personal strategy for the use of web, social networking and other relevant technologies as a component of the career development process.

Year 2 - Programme Credit Structure

- Instrumental or Vocal Technique 2 24 credits
- Music Production 2 24 credits
- Music Creation 2 24 credits
- Music Professional Practice 2 24 credits
- The Context 2 12 credits
- Professional Development 2 12 credits

Instrumental Technique 2

Instrumental Technique 2 aims to further develop specific instrumental skills and techniques as detailed in the instrumental syllabus. In addition general performance related skills (i.e. study, rehearsal, preparation and presentation skills) will continue to be developed. A more thorough understanding of a range of performance related subjects (improvisation, style/genre, interpretation, and musical analysis) will be developed to build on the foundations for future development in instrumental music and/or performance.

By the end of this module, you should be able to demonstrate an advanced level of engagement with instrumental practice, study, rehearsal, preparation, presentation and performance techniques. You will also be able to display an advanced level of musical and technical proficiency in performing scales, modes, chords, sight reading and prescribed technical exercises, as well as employ a sophisticated range of improvisation and interpretation skills in a band setting. You will be able to perform confidently in a chosen range of musical styles with an heightened accuracy and awareness of the characteristics of musical genres and the appropriate instrumental repertoire reflecting a developing personal musical style.

Music Production 2

Music Production 2 builds upon the techniques gained in Music Production 1 and develop the overall understanding of Record Production as a discipline in preparation for the change of focus of the Level 6 Producer module. The module aims to introduce learners to professional approaches and methods of evaluation work within a wider context. It also aims to develop understanding of professional practices and techniques and the reasoning behind some of the methods employed in the wider music industry environment.

After completing the module, you should be able to produce, mix and master a good quality multi-track recordings using at least two industry standard non-linear desktop recording packages. You will be able to demonstrate creative use of, and a thorough operational fluency with, the core functions and features of industry standard desktop recording software, including programming software instruments, synthesisers, multi-track recording, EQ, mixing, dynamics effects and processors. You will exercise a high level of control with regard to audio quality and the musical performance of others and display knowledge of the development, techniques and professional context of the record production. You will also be able to critically evaluate work with regard to broader popular culture within the production process.

Music Creation 2

Advanced Music Creation enables students to further develop practical skills and individual expression through increased familiarisation with applied contemporary composition and songwriting techniques. The module aims to expand technical abilities in creating new musical works, equip learners with the necessary skills to respond to a variety of commissions within agreed deadlines, engage learners in real and simulated industrial circumstances, and provide further opportunities and support for students to develop an individual means of creative expression

Upon completion of this module, you should be able to employ recognised music industry practices in responding to the commissioning of new musical works to a specified brief and within agreed deadlines, and demonstrate high levels of creative and technical skill in generating new musical works. You will have the skills to evaluate these in relation to similar successful works from an emerging canon of popular, contemporary and commercial music.

Music Professional Practice 2

The module builds upon Music Professional Practice 1 and further develops successful projects and provides an opportunity to modify and improve projects. It offers you an opportunity to develop vocational music related activities through a practical professional process and is focused toward refining occupational skills and professional preparation in the context of the contemporary music industry.

Music Professional Practice 2 promotes and recognises the nature and diversity of approaches, genres and media applicable to occupations, performance and other professional music applications. It requires learners to develop communication skills, plan rehearsals, present or perform ideas and undertake responsibilities to a greater scale and sophistication than previously encountered on the programme.

After completing the module, you should be able to propose and engage in a range of professionally focussed musical activities and projects based on personal musical strengths which reflect a developing potential portfolio career. You will be able to operate with increased autonomy in professionally focussed music performances, music creation or music production activity, making significant contribution to specific professionally focussed outputs such as public performances, new musical works, recordings and/or band/artist product development, and work within the relevant professional, legal, financial, music industry and IT frameworks necessary to organise, perform, and present professionally focussed musical outputs. You will develop and evaluate tactics and strategies that contribute to the development of commercial and artistic success, and employ a heightened awareness of the extra-musical aspects of performance and product presentation such as image, style, stage presence, movement, context and general production values and identify and produce industry standard promotional materials.

The Context 2

Building upon the knowledge gained in Context 1, the aim of this module is to develop further knowledge and application of key academic concepts, theories and approaches that underpin to the study of popular music practices and products.

After completing the module, you should be able to analyse and contextualise your own music practice and products within sociocultural and professional contexts. You will be able to explain key theoretical concepts and apply them to your music practice and products, and communicate information, arguments and analysis through the application of research and writing skills, and the use of appropriate academic conventions.

Professional Development 2

Professional Development 2 aims to provide you with additional depth in generic employment and enterprise skills (i.e. employment and business structures and practices, business and event planning, negotiation, self employment, financial and tax planning, etc.). It also allows you to gain skills in learning how to consolidate generic and the allied discipline-specific skills through focused application in the context of employment, career or enterprise planning.

Upon completion of this module, you should be able to analyse and contextualise your own music practice and products within sociocultural and professional contexts, explain key theoretical concepts and apply them to your music practice and products, and communicate information, arguments and analysis through the application of research and writing skills, and the use of appropriate academic conventions.

Year 3 – Programme Credit Structure

- Professional Development 3 24 credits
- The Performer Musician 36 credits
- The Music Producer 36 credits
- The Music Creator: Composer/Songwriter 36 credits
- The Context 3 – Final Research Project 24 credits

Professional Development 3

Professional Development 3 aims to equip you with all the skill you need to professionally present a portfolio that identifies opportunities for creating employment within the music industries with specific reference to industrial, marketing, legal, and budgetary objectives and constraints.

This module allows you to research, identify and produce industry standard promotional materials employing professional standards of presentation in publicity and marketing materials for your own musical works. You will be able to identify, & successfully target relevant audiences, customers, markets, industry bodies and potential employers as part of a portfolio career. You will also exercise initiative and personal responsibility to manage the professional, commercial, legal, financial and technical practices, frameworks and contexts in which you operate as a musician.

The Performer Musician

The Performer focuses on the further development of the individual performer and their instrumental/vocal specialism. The module aims to develop the conception, organisation, promotion, participation in and presentation of several music performance projects to a professional standard. Building upon and applying skills acquired through MPP2, plus the technique modules, you are required to plan, execute and evaluate performance led projects over the course of the year, leading to a final performance.

After completing this module, you should be able to perform as a vocalist or instrumentalist to a professional standard in a variety of settings demonstrating the application of appropriate musical skills and technique. You should also be able to document and archive all on going music performances and related activities and reflect, review, revise and plan activity on an on-going basis.

The Music Producer

The Music Producer module aims to allow you to develop professional level conceptual and practical production skills through collaborating with performers, writers, arrangers, programmers, sound engineers and other practitioners.

It also provides an opportunity for experimentation, creative problem solving and the setting and attaining of relevant goals, whilst providing you with the support, facilities and opportunities to identify and develop creative potential in incipient musical works to realise this potential with regard to potential markets.

Upon completion of this module, you should be able to produce recordings of songs, compositions and other musical creations to professional standards demonstrating the application of appropriate musical skills and technique. You should also be able to document, and archive all on going music production and related activity and reflect, review, revise and plan activity on an on-going basis.

The Music Creator: Composer/Songwriter

The Music Creator module aims to develop the conception, organisation, promotion, participation in and presentation of a Composition and/or Songwriting project or projects. You are required to plan, execute to a professional standard and evaluate a Songwriting and /or Composition oriented project or projects. You may work collaboratively on projects, and project proposals, as agreed via a learning contract, will be approved subject to resource constraints, timescales and feasibility.

After completing this module, you should be able to create new musical works to a professional standard demonstrating the application of appropriate musical skills and technique; document, analyse and archive all on going music creation and related activity and reflect, review, revise and plan activity on an on-going basis.

The Context 3 – Final Research Project

This module aims to enable you to investigate an idea at the forefront of your own practice, using and building upon the theoretical knowledge and research skills developed in The Context 1 and The Context 2.

You will carry out research in an area that is useful and relevant to your own practice and career aspirations, synthesising and evaluating information, ideas and concepts from a wide range of sources. You will develop your research and writing skills to a high level, enabling you to produce a coherent, evidence based and persuasive argument.

By the end of this module, you should be able to propose and implement a programme of research in relation to an aspect of your musical practice and potential career. You should be able to analyse and critically evaluate this aspect of your musical practice and potential career within a framework of relevant theoretical debates. You will also be able to construct a coherent and well-evidenced argument, communicated using academic writing skills and conventions.

Please note: This document is intended to give you a flavour of the course content in your first, second and third year. All of this information can be subject to change as LIPA programmes change to reflect the changing needs of the arts and entertainment industries.