

## Foundation Certificate in Popular Music & Sound Technology

### Module Information

#### Core Modules (year long)

- Business Skills and Context – 24 credits
- Musicianship – 24 credits
- Sound Recording & Production – 24 credits

#### Teaching Block 1 Options (September – January)

##### Choose Two

- Music Theory – 12 credits
- Theory of Sound – 12 credits
- Songwriting – 12 credits

#### Teaching Block 2 Options (February – May)

##### Choose Two

- Live Sound – 12 credits
- Arranging & Direction – 12 credits
- Sequencing & Programming – 12 credits

### Business Skills and Context

This module aims to develop the basic business skills and knowledge necessary to successfully back up a career in the media and entertainment industries. It also aims to provide knowledge of the context in which these industries operate. Practical business skills will include completing application forms, business planning, financial planning, making presentations and interviewing for work.

After completing the module, you should be able to:

1. Identify and appraise the industry structures in which they hope to work;
2. Recognise and evaluate the basic principles of contract and copyright law;
3. Develop a career development plan;
4. Develop basic draft business plans;
5. Employ budgets and cash flow forecasts;
6. Deliver competent presentations and perform well in interview.

### Musicianship

Musicianship is designed to provide you with a range of vocal or instrumental skills as a soloist and in small and large ensembles. The module is designed to provide a rigorous foundation for the your future development as an instrumental or vocal performer. The module aims to develop general performance-related skills such as study/practice, rehearsal, preparation and presentation skills. It provides an opportunity to rehearse and perform in a variety of ensembles and environments. It also aims to foster a broad understanding of a range of performance related subjects including style, interpretation, improvisation and musical analysis.

After completing this module, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate improved rehearsal, ensemble and presentation skills
2. Demonstrate improvement in instrumental and/or vocal technique
3. Distinguish stylistic characteristics of a range of musical genres

4. Perform in a variety of musical styles

### **Sound Recording & Production**

Sound Recording & Production aims to provide an understanding of the processes and techniques involved in modern music recording and production. It develops an understanding of the key technologies, ideas and concepts involved, and the application of specific practical skills in both desktop and traditional studio environments.

After completing the module, you should be able to:

1. Operate an industry standard DAW effectively and efficiently;
2. Operate the key components of a multi-track recording studio;
3. Identify the key production and engineering techniques employed in a commercial recording and explain how these may be applied to their own work;
4. Critically appraise the strengths and weaknesses of their own practical work;
5. Select appropriate technical tools and techniques to produce a music recording to a good demo standard.

### **Music Theory**

Music Theory is designed to give performing artists the basic ability to understand music notation at a practical level. Specific module aims include the development of:

- An understanding of the notated language of music
- The ability to decode (read) and encode (write) music notation
- A basic understanding of function harmony
- A foundation for further study of music through notation

After completing the module, you should be able to:

1. Identify and correctly employ time and key signatures
2. Construct names, scales and chords;
3. Transcribe rhythms, melodies and chords;
4. Read and write basic musical notation.

### **Theory of Sound**

Theory of Sound aims to:

- Provide you with a basic understanding of theory underpinning audio recording and production, to a level that would prepare them effectively for further study in this area.
- Enhance your application of basic mathematics
- Develop generic ICT skills

After completing the module, you should be able to:

1. Explain the basic physical principles that underpin sound recording and reproduction
2. Apply the principles of decibel measurement scales
3. Describe the basic human auditory system and the perception of sound
4. Use spreadsheets to perform basic calculations relating to audio systems and acoustics.

### **Songwriting**

Songwriting is designed to provide you with the skills and knowledge necessary to develop your potential as a songwriter in a wide variety of settings. The module aims to develop a sense of structural and stylistic awareness, and will lead to the recording and notated presentation of completed songs.

After completing the module, you should be able to:

1. Write songs to a specific brief

2. Collaborate as a composer or lyricist
3. Employ the most frequently encountered song structures in their work
4. Present songs in demo format with accompanying documentation including a 'lead sheet' with chords, melody and lyrics.

### **Live Sound**

Live Sound aims to provide an understanding of the processes and techniques involved in sound reinforcement of small to medium sized music events. It develops an understanding of the key technologies, ideas and concepts involved, and the application of specific practical skills in a real-world environment. It is designed to ensure that you can perform more effectively as both musicians and technicians in a live performance environment.

After completing the module, you should be able to:

1. Rig and operate a small to medium sized sound reinforcement system;
2. Plan and organise the technical requirements of a live music event;
3. Show an enhanced awareness of the roles and responsibilities of technicians and performers in live events.

### **Arranging and Direction**

Arranging and Direction is designed to provide an understanding of the role of the arranger and musical director, and to provide the skills and knowledge necessary to develop ability in this area. The preparation and delivery of musical parts and scores will be developed, alongside skills in basic arranging, conducting, and leadership/directing skills.

After completing the module, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate interpersonal and musicianship skills appropriate to the role of musical director;
2. Employ basic arranging skills;
3. Take responsibility for all aspects of rehearsals leading to performance;
4. Oversee the provision and preparation of all appropriate materials for rehearsal and performance.

### **Sequencing and Programming**

Sequencing and Programming aims to equip you with a working knowledge of desktop based audio production systems as a tool for composition and production.

After completing the module, you should be able to:

1. Use a variety of industry standard software packages efficiently and competently;
2. Identify appropriate technical methodologies to meet specific production aims;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) and other data structures and their relationship to music production;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of basic synthesis and sampling techniques to edit and creatively alter sound;
5. Create a musical production within the desktop environment employing sequencing, sampling and synthesis techniques.