

BMUS(HONS)

Programme overview

Updated 31 March 2022

Programme Structure

Overview

Years 1 and 2

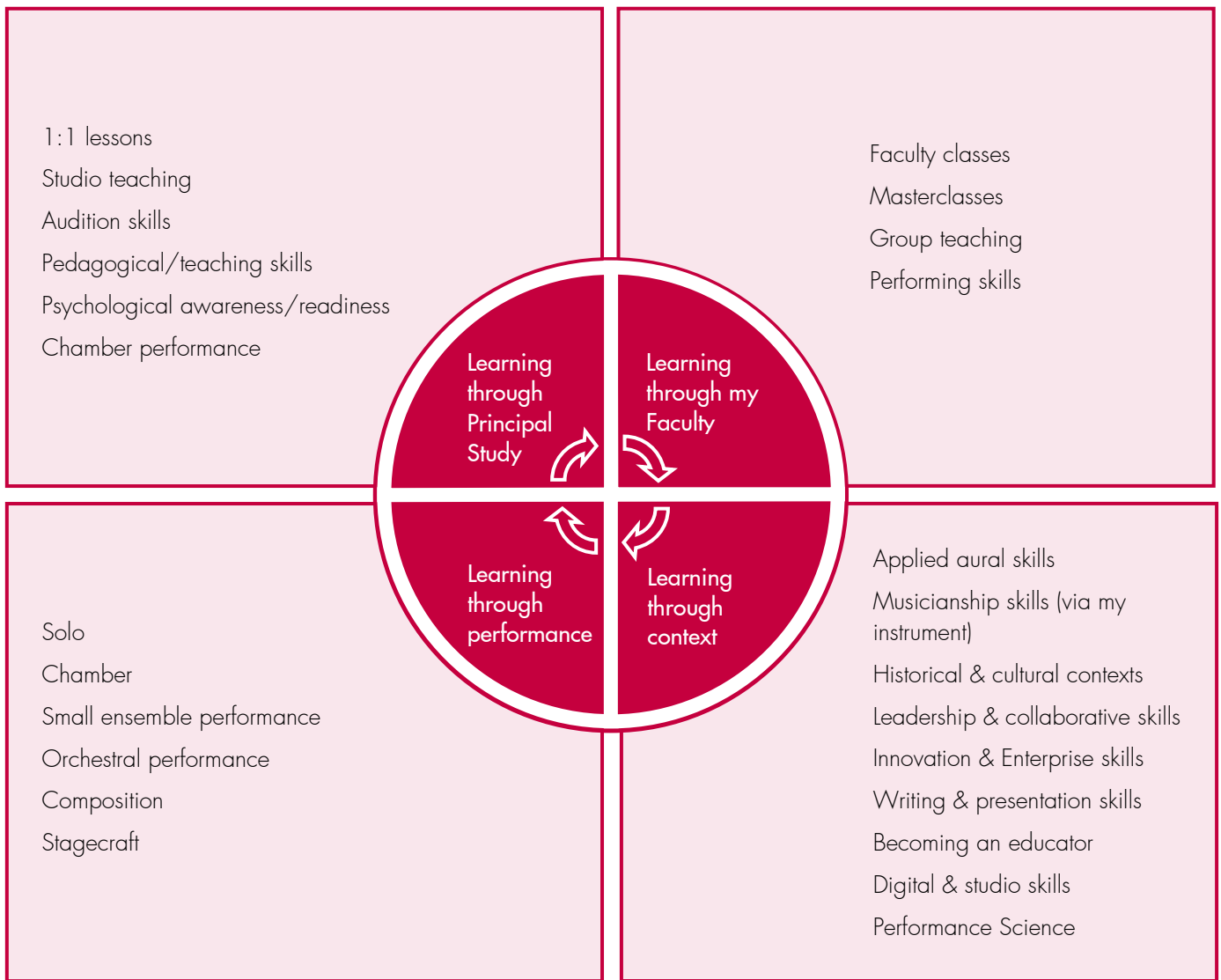
- Principal Study in performance or composition (with optional Related Study or Second Study), with regular faculty-based workshops, activities, and opportunities for performance
- Courses in music history & performance practice, practical musicianship & classical improvisation, applied aural skills, study skills, Alexander Technique, musicians' health & wellbeing
- Professional Musician course in year 2 comprising classes in Stagecraft & Communication, Career Management and Digital skills
- Core course on Music Leadership in Year 2, comprising units in Learning & Participation
- Opportunity to fast track to higher levels of study in aural awareness and practical musicianship

Years 3 and 4

- Continuing work in performance and/or composition studies (Principal, Related and Second Study)
- Core course on Music Leadership Skills in Year 3 comprising units in music pedagogy and conducting
- Creation of a personalised programme of study from the following options (offered on either a yearly or two-yearly basis)

Learning and teaching hours

Learning and teaching hours are calculated as 100 hours per ten credits studied. For BMus students this equates to 4,800 hours, which is split between self-directed study and contact hours with tutors. Contact hours include performances, one-to-one tuition, larger group tuition, seminars, faculty and academic classes, directed rehearsals, masterclasses, competitions and supervised study. Rehearsal and performance contact time will vary according to each student's discipline and chosen study options. The diagram below is designed to illustrate the RCM learning experience.



BMus Programme Modules and Levels of Study

Each module within our undergraduate programme is assigned a level according to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) credit system. Core modules in years 1 and 2 can be taken at levels 4, 5 or 6. Optional modules in years 3 and 4 are taken at levels 5 and 6.

BMus (Hons) Programme Framework

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Principal Study Level 4 (40/60) Second Study (20) Related Study (0) Joint Principal Study Level 4 (60)	Principal Study Level 5 (40/50/60) Second Study (20) Related Study (10) Joint Principal Study Level 5 (60)	Principal Study Level 6 (60/70/80) Second Study (20) Related Study (10) Joint Principal Study Level 6 (40/40)	Principal Study Level 6G (60/70/80) Joint Principal Study Level 6G (40/40)
Musicianship & Improvisation Level 4, 5 or 6 (20)	Musicianship Workshops Level 5 or 6 (10)	Strands of Options (10/20) at Levels 5, 6 These will be organised across the following specialisations and example modules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied Skills [Musicianship, Aural, Stylistics, Alexander Technique] • Faculty Based Options [Chamber Music, Interpretation of Song, Opera, Acting & Movement] • Music in Context [Historical Studies, Digital & Studio, Innovation & Enterprise] • Music Leadership & Education [Conducting, Instrumental and Vocal Teaching] • Performance Science [Effective Practice, Evaluating Performance] • Open Project (L6G – 30 credits) [in any of the above areas] 	
Applied Aural Level 4, 5 or 6 (10)	Applied Aural Level 5 or 6 (10) or Aural in Professional Contexts Level 6 (10)		
Historical Studies Level 4 (20)	Historical Studies Level 5 (20)		
Healthy Musician Level 4 (10) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Practice • Alexander Technique 	Professional Musician Level 5 (10) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stagecraft & Communication • Digital Skills for Musicians • Career Management 	The Researching Practitioner Level 6 (10)	
	Music Leadership: Learning & Participation Level 5 (10)	Music Leadership: Teaching Skills & Techniques Level 5 (10)	

Examples of BMus Core Modules and Options

Please note that optional modules may be subject to change according to student numbers and availability of professors.

Applied Skills	Credits	Pre-requisite (core modules in red)
Advanced Stylistic Studies L6	20	L5 or L6 Musicianship Workshop
Alexander Technique L5	20	L4 Healthy Musician
Alexander Technique L6	20	L5 Alexander Technique
Aural in Professional Contexts L6	10	L5 Applied Aural Skills
Applied Aural Skills L6	10	L5 Applied Aural Skills
Improvisation L5	10	L5 or L6 Musicianship Workshop
Jazz Harmony & Arranging L5	20	L5 or L6 Musicianship Workshop
Jazz Composition & Arranging L6	20	L5 Jazz Harmony & Arranging
Orchestration & Transcription L5	20	L5 or L6 Musicianship Workshop
Orchestration & Arrangement L6	20	L5 Orchestration & Transcription
Writing About Music L5	10	L5 Historical Studies
Writing About Music L6	10	L5 Writing About Music

Faculty-based	Credits	Pre-requisite (core modules in red)
Collaborative Piano L5 *	20	L5 Principal Study Piano
Collaborative Piano L6 *	20	L5 Collaborative Piano
Collaborative Piano L6G *	20	L6 Collaborative Piano
Guitar Accompaniment L5 *	20	L5 Principal Study Guitar
Guitar Accompaniment L6 *	20	L5 Guitar Accompaniment
Interpretation of Song L5	20	L5 Principal Study Voice
Interpretation of Song L6	20	L5 Interpretation of Song
Opera, Acting & Movement L6	20	L6 Principal Study Voice
Organ Improvisation L5 *	20	L5 Principal Study Organ
Organ Improvisation L6 *	20	L5 Organ Improvisation
Chamber Music inc. Duo Performance L5	20	L5 Principal Study
Chamber Music inc. Duo Performance L6	20	L5 Chamber Music
Conducting L6	20	L5 Music Leadership 2: Teaching Skills & Techniques
Contemporary Music in Action L6/7	10	L5 Principal Study

* May not be taken in conjunction with a Second, Related or Joint Principal Study since these options attract 10 hours of additional 1:1 tuition over the year. Principal Study may be taken at 80 credits but with 35 hours tuition only over the year.

Music in Context	Credits	Pre-requisite (core modules in red)
Composition for Screen L6	20	L5 Electronic Music or L5 Second Study Composition
Composition L5	20	L5 or L6 Musicianship Workshop
Composition L6	20	L5 Composition
Electronic Music L5	20	L5 or L6 Musicianship Workshop
Electronic Music L6	20	L5 Electronic Music
Historical Studies L6: Investigating Music A	10	L5 Historical Studies
Historical Studies L6: Investigating Music B	10	L5 Historical Studies
Innovation & Enterprise L6	10	L5 Music Leadership 1: Learning & Participation
Musician in the Digital Age L5	10	L5 Professional Musician
Sound Recording and Production L6	20	L5 Professional Musician

Music Leadership & Education	Credits	Pre-requisite (core modules in red)
Instrumental & Vocal Teaching L6	20	L5 Music Leadership 2: Teaching Skills & Techniques
Workshop Leadership L6	20	L5 Music Leadership 1: Learning & Participation or L5 Music Leadership 2: Teaching Skills & Techniques

Performance Science	Credits	Pre-requisite (core modules in red)
Effective Practice L5	10	L4 Healthy Musician
Evaluating Performance L5	10	L4 Healthy Musician
Psychology of Performance L6	10	L4 Healthy Musician

Open Project	Credits
Open Project (Year 4 only)	30

The BMus(Hons) offers our students various trajectories to specialise in depending on the strengths and interests. Sample trajectories are below.

Examples of trajectories through the strands

Digital & Sound Production

L5 Professional Musician (Digital Skills for Musicians)



L6 Sound Recording & Production



L6G Open Project (in Digital & Sound Production)

or

L5 Professional Musician (Digital Skills for Musicians)



L5 Performance in the Digital Age



L6G Open Project (in Digital & Sound Production)

or

L5 Professional Musician (Digital Skills for Musicians)



L5 Electronic Music



L6 Electronic Music

Music Leadership & Education

L5 Music Leadership 1: Learning & Participation



L6 Instrumental & Vocal Teaching



L6G Open Project (in Leadership & Education)

or

L5 Music Leadership 1: Learning & Participation



L6 Music Leadership 2: Teaching Skills & Techniques



L6 Workshop Leadership

Innovation & Enterprise

L5 Artistic Development (Career Management)



L6 Innovation & Enterprise



L6G Open Project (in Innovation & Enterprise)

Performance Science

L5 Effective Practice



L6 Memorising Music



L6G Open Project (in Performance Science)

or

L5 Evaluating Performance



L6 Performance Psychology



L6G Open Project (in Performance Science)

Historical Studies

L5 Historical Studies



L6 Investigating Music



L6G Open Project (in Historical Studies)