

Programme specification

BA (Hons) Music: Composition

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YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

<i>School:</i>	Performance and Media Production		
<i>Entry from:</i>	2019	<i>In:</i>	September
<i>Awarding Institution:</i>	York St John University		
<i>Teaching Institution:</i>	York St John University		
<i>Delivery Location:</i>	York St John University		
<i>Programme/s Accredited by:</i>	Not applicable		
<i>Exit Awards:</i>	BA (Ord) Music Diploma of Higher Education Music Certificate of Higher Education Music		
<i>UCAS Code / GTTR / Other:</i>	W380		
<i>Joint Honours Combinations:</i>	Not applicable		
<i>QAA Benchmark Group(s):</i>	Music (2008)		
<i>Mode/s of Study:</i>	Full-time for 3 years Part-time for 6 years		
<i>Language of Study:</i>	English		

Introduction and Special Features

Music: Composition at York St John University is a dynamic part of the academic and cultural life of the campus. We are committed to developing creative and reflective composers who can make a significant impact on the communities in which they work after graduation.

Two distinctive features of the programme are an emphasis on ensemble music making, involving staff and students from across all years working together to achieve successful performances, and the integration of all styles and genres of music. This cooperative and inclusive ethos is central to music at YSJU. There are also opportunities for collaborative work with your colleagues on related programmes such as theatre, dance or film, giving you possibilities of writing music for a film or a piece of dance. There is an emphasis on group work to develop your understanding and awareness of group dynamics, and the importance of cooperation and collaboration in work environments. This is also reinforced through modules which address ensemble leadership and employability.

There are opportunities to engage with professional performers and composers in composition workshops and seminars. The York Late Music Series offers a composition prize which has been won by past students of YSJU, and there is also an annual Graduation Fanfare Composition Competition specifically for YSJU composers. The programme also runs a Tuesday lunchtime concert series, offering many opportunities actively to engage with music as performer, composer, conductor, critic, and in all cases as a listener. There are also a number of professional concerts as well as evening concerts featuring our larger ensembles which provide further opportunities to have your works performed in public.

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You can audition for the University Chamber Choir, which each year visits a famous cathedral or concert hall to perform with a number of fellow university choirs. A 4-day trip to Paris with visits to IRCAM, a cabaret, concerts and related museums is offered in the final year of the programme.

Admissions Criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study. If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Non-standard applicants will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Programme Aims

Music: Composition has the following programme aims:

- to offer a musically broad-based and eclectic curriculum, exploring a wide range of styles and genres, reflecting global diversity in music
- to place music in the context of artistic, social, political and cultural change
- to present a contemporary and relevant programme, allowing students to explore music as it is today
- to allow students to become reflective composers
- to prioritise group skills, teamwork and collaboration
- to encourage composers to collaborate with artists in other disciplines
- to offer opportunities for composers to hear their works in public performances
- to offer opportunities for students to engage in innovative practice
- to offer opportunities for composers to engage with digital technologies in music
- to enhance the employability of our musicians, encouraging the use of professional working standards

- 4.1 Recognise and identify by ear essential components of a musical language.
- 4.2 Illustrate appropriate skills in the presentation of a performance, such as awareness and acknowledgement of an audience
- 4.3 Demonstrate ensemble skills such as performing effectively as part of a group
- 4.4 Demonstrate knowledge of a variety of musical styles through creative and technical projects or exercises
- 4.5 Evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data in accordance with basic theories and concepts of music.

Level 5 / FHEQ L5

- 5.1 Demonstrate the ability to apply concepts and principles by working as an integrated member of a team, responding to partnership and leadership
- 5.2 Apply underlying concepts to musical sounds, ideas, repertoires and practices
- 5.3 Use a range of established techniques critically to analyse data and information relevant to the study of music
- 5.4 Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms
- 5.5 Show the artistic and expressive skills necessary to communicate music convincingly to the listener, through the medium of composition
- 5.6 Demonstrate the development of existing skills and the acquisition of new competencies.
- 5.7 Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of compositional skills and techniques

Level 6 / FHEQ L6

- 6.1 Evince the ability to lead others in teamwork, organising, conducting and directing groups of performers
- 6.2 Demonstrate the self-motivation and critical self-awareness to acquire new skills, develop a career, continue to learn and explore, and keep abreast of developments in an ever-changing professional environment
- 6.3 Critically evaluate relevant scholarly literature and relate its insights to the practice and experience of music, relating it to relevant contexts.
- 6.4 Demonstrate a systematic understanding of methods and techniques they have learned through practical projects
- 6.5 Synthesise insights, theories and knowledge of compositional practice to produce an extended and coherent piece of written work
- 6.6 Demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively, creating an original musical composition

Programme Structure

In the first year of the programme, the modules you take are shared with all music students. In addition the module *Perspectives on Music* is shared with the Music Production students. This will give you a grounding in practical skills and the academic understanding you will need in the later years of your course. In your second year you will take the specialist *Composition* module, and have choices between *Film Music* and *Music in Education and Lifelong Learning* as well as between *Music in the Community* and *Experiments in Music*, enabling you to shape the course to your own interests. You will also take *New Music, New Ideas (Music: Composition)* which encourages exploration of less familiar ideas, and discovery and use of new approaches and aspects of recent music. This combination of modules offered provides a creative and practical foundation to progress on to more complex projects and content in year 3. *Enterprise and Employability* will focus on strengthening your ability to work independently to develop your research and professional skills in preparation for careers beyond university. Additionally, *Advanced Composition* will offer a wide choice of composition-related topics for the *Dissertation* module. Furthermore, *Collaborative Project*, has a practical emphasis allowing the opportunity to work with students in other subjects areas, and other musicians as well.

Modules for the Programme

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Status of Module*
1MU303	4	1 & 2	Perspectives on Music	40	C
1MU300	4	1 & 2	Music Skills	40	C
1MU301	4	1	Vox	20	C
1MU302	4	2	Drumming	20	C
2MU307	5	1 & 2	Composition	20	C
2MU170	5	1	Composition 1	10	O ¹
2MU180	5	2	Composition 2	10	O ¹
2MU300	5	1 & 2	Ensemble Performance	20	C
2MU150	5	1	Ensemble 1	10	O ¹
2MU160	5	2	Ensemble 2	10	O ¹
2MU301	5	1	Improvisation	20	C
2MU310	5	1	Film Music	20	O
2MU308	5	1	Music in Education and Lifelong Learning	20	O
2MU311	5	2	Experiments in Music	20	O
2MU309	5	2	Music in the Community	20	O
2MU304	5	2	New Music, New Ideas (Music: Composition)	20	C

3MU301	6	1 & 2	Enterprise and Employability	2 0	C
3MU300	6	1 & 2	Ensembles and Leadership	2 0	C
3MU306	6	1 & 2	Dissertation (Music: Composition)	2 0	CA
3MU311	6	1 & 2	Collaborative Project (Music: Composition)	4 0	C
3MU303	6	1 & 2	Advanced Composition	2 0	CA

Note: Part-time routes have been designed to facilitate a 60-credit academic year.

¹Modules only to be used when a single semester alternative is required (e.g. for visiting international students or to enable study abroad)

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The teaching of Music at YSJU integrates many different approaches appropriate to the varied nature of the subject. There are some lectures, but most staff-led learning sessions are in the form of seminars or workshops, with individual instrumental or vocal lessons. Throughout the course we integrate theory and practical work. Assessment is carried out through presentations, performances and the submission of portfolios and essays. There are no formal examinations.

In addition to the formal teaching in scheduled classes, you will have many other opportunities to learn through practical experience provided by the large number of music ensembles active on campus and throughout the city. Instrumental and vocal development is further supported by the provision of individual instrumental or vocal lessons. Additionally, you will be encouraged to attend the regular series of lunchtime and evening concerts promoted on the campus. Throughout the degree you are encouraged to engage with a wide range of musical styles and cultures and to relate your music making to other performance disciplines and to educational and community contexts. Composition is taught through a combination of seminars and individual tutorials, and assessed through folios of compositions with commentaries. There are many opportunities for your works to be performed by student ensembles as well as workshoped by professional groups.

Music has developed a number of international links and partnerships with overseas institutions, offering you the opportunity to study abroad in your second year. There are also opportunities for work-based learning on either the *Music in Education and Lifelong Learning* or the *Music in the Community* modules.

As you approach the end of your degree there is an increasing emphasis on independent learning, supported by small group and individual tutorials. In your final year, you will plan and execute work more autonomously (both individually and part of a team), and take increasing responsibility for the process of your own creativity and learning. Several level 6 modules are concerned with professionalism and employability, preparing you for life beyond university.

Progression and Graduation Requirements

The University's [general regulations for undergraduate awards](#) apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section.

Internal and External Reference Points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Further Information

Further information on the programme of study may be obtained from:

- Admissions entry profile (Admissions)
- Programme validation document (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Regulations (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Student undergraduate handbook (School)
- Student programme handbook (School)
- Moodle Module Pages (School)

Date written / revised: 14/02/2015, July 2017