

Programme Specification

Award and title: **BA (Hons) Music: Composition**

<i>School:</i>	School of the Arts
<i>Subject area:</i>	Music
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2021-22
<i>in the month(s) of</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>	
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education Music Diploma of Higher Education Music BA (Ord) Music: Composition
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	None
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Music
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Undergraduate periods of study ¹ for full time / part time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	Yes

Introduction and special features

This BA (Hons) Music: Composition programme at York St John University is based on the following fundamental ideas:

1. This is a programme for all musicians wishing to specialise in composition, **regardless of genre, style, or instrument**. It focuses on the development of musicians as self-reliant, creative practitioners who wish to specialise in Composition
2. This programme situates **students' experience first** and it places you at the centre of the learning experience.
3. All musical and critical practices on the programme are integrated within **current research**. All staff are research active, and all you will be engaged in that research, alongside other students, postgraduate researchers and staff, including composers, practising and collaborating alongside each other.
4. All musical and critical practices on the programme are considered through a **pedagogic lens**. A critical understanding of how learning occurs in musical contexts is embedded in your activities.

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

5. All musical and critical practices on the programme are **professionalised**. The development of your employability and appropriate transferable skills are highlighted in all aspects of the programme, and work-related learning experiences are integrated into modules.
6. All musical and critical practices on the programme are situated within wider **societal contexts**. Theory and practice are considered in terms of public engagement with cultural and ethical issues.

In addition:

- You will have the opportunity to study abroad for one semester.
- BA (Hons) Music: Composition students regularly take part in concert trips, external performances and educational visits. In recent years these have included trips to Paris and to the Edinburgh Fringe. There may be an additional cost for these trips.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. 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.

Programme aim(s)

The BA (Hons) Music: Composition programme aims to help you to develop

1. as creative, innovative artists, specialising in composition, who draw on a range of techniques and strategies through their work,
2. as curious researchers who can present ideas to a range of audiences, and
3. as professional members of their communities who positively impact others.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

Level 4

- 4.1 identify, demonstrate, and integrate underlying musical techniques and strategies
- 4.2 identify, acquire, and evaluate ideas and concepts that allow the creation of new work
- 4.3 acquire, evaluate, and interpret qualitative and quantitative information, in order to demonstrate understanding and question musical concepts
- 4.4 accurately and effectively present practical and theoretical work
- 4.5 demonstrate an understanding of the roles musical practices might play in society
- 4.6 demonstrate qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility and sound judgement

Level 5

- 5.1 demonstrate knowledge and critical analysis of established compositional techniques and strategies
- 5.2 extend and develop musical ideas and concepts beyond their usual context in the creation of new work

5.3 demonstrate a critical understanding of methods of musical enquiry used to generate informed curiosity

5.4 explore and evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to presenting practical and theoretical work, furthering existing skills

5.5 critically evaluate the appropriateness of different musical approaches to addressing issues in society

5.6 explore and evaluate qualities and transferable skills for employment, acquiring new competencies and responsibilities

Level 6

6.1 autonomously review, consolidate, extend and apply compositional techniques and strategies in professional contexts

6.2 autonomously and systematically integrate ideas, concepts, and artistic processes to create work at the current boundaries of compositional practice

6.3 autonomously and systematically apply methods of enquiry at, or informed by, the forefront of musical research, resulting in the acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge

6.4 accurately and effectively present complex practical and theoretical work to both specialist and non-specialist audiences

6.5 critically apply musical practices to address complex issues in society

6.6 demonstrate leadership qualities, skills, and responsibilities in complex and unpredictable professional contexts

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensatable (NC) or compensatable (X)
MUS4005M	4	1&2	Musicking	30	C	NC
MUS4004M	4	1&2	Perspectives on Music I	30	C	NC
MUS4006M	4	1&2	Ensembles and Teamwork	20	C	X
MUS4002M	4	1	Vox	20	C	X
MUS4003M	4	2	Drumming	20	C	X
MUS5004M	5	1&2	Ensemble Strategies	20	C	X
MUS5005M	5	1&2	Perspectives on Music II	20	C	X
MUS5006M	5	1&2	Musical Exploration	20	C	X
MUS5007M	5	1&2	Professional Context and Practice	20	C	X
MUS5001M	5	1&2	Composition Strategies	20	C	X
You must choose one of the following modules:						
MUS5002M	5	1&2	Principles of Community Music	20	O	X
MUS5003M	5	1&2	Solo Performance Strategies	20	O	X
MUS6003M	6	1&2	Ensembles and Leadership	20	C	X
MUS6001M	6	1	Dissertation	20	C	X
MUS6002M	6	1&2	Collaborative Project	30	C	NC
MUS6004M	6	2	Enterprise and Employability	20	C	X
MUS6005M	6	1&2	Advanced Composition	30	C	NC

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-

compensatable. A non-compensatable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 40 in order to progress).

Learning, teaching and assessment

Central to teaching Music Composition is the focus on you as a maker of music in collaborative and individual music making and performance. We will encourage you to create new music for a wide variety of audiences and in a range of styles that really push you to explore your abilities as an artist.

You will learn through experience: on the Music: Composition programme this is achieved by direct engagement with practical activity in music, and through considered reflection on their experiences and the key theories which underpin that practice.

Teaching activities are student-centred, putting your needs and the quality of your experience first. At levels 5 and 6 there is an increased focus on the development of artistic specialisms, professional values, and on graduate employability. At level 6 you will take an intensive specialist module in Advanced Composition.

All learning and teaching is integrated in current research, and embedded in student activities is a critical understanding of how learning occurs in musical contexts. All students have an academic tutor, and tutorial support is available in all modules.

All teaching staff are research active and/or produce professional music, so there are frequent opportunities for students to assist with professional practice and research in theatre through our Student Internships scheme. There are study abroad opportunities in the U.S. for those students who wish to expand their connections internationally. We encourage and support festival and competition entry and have professional technicians who can support these activities.

There are no formal examinations; assessment takes place through the submission of coursework, including essays, compositions, recordings and online portfolios) and through live events such as performances, presentations and placements.

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 as non-compensatable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised:

Programme originally approved: