



University of
St Andrews

Music Centre



Music

As part of your degree 2023-2024

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/music/students/music-as-part-of-your-degree

The Music Centre offers modules at all levels of the undergraduate degree to help you develop your interests in music alongside your other studies. Some of our modules are intended for students who have already acquired a high level of competence in performance and/or reading musical notation while others require no prior knowledge or expertise. We are happy to accept students from all Faculties on our music modules, regardless of what other subjects they are studying, although as with all modular choices, you will need to obtain the approval of your Adviser of Studies.

NB module details are correct at the time of going to press and apply to academic year 2023-2024.

- For more details about these modules including class hours and any prerequisites, please consult the Undergraduate Course catalogue: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/coursecatalogue
- For general enquiries about music modules email: musicmodules@st-andrews.ac.uk or the Co-ordinator of Academic Music: camusic@st-andrews.ac.uk
- For online information about modules including information about audition requirements see the Music Department web page: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/music/students/music-as-part-of-your-degree

1000 Level

MU1003 Understanding Music (20 credits) (Semester 1)

This module aims to develop skills and knowledge that will help students to get more out of the experience of listening to Western art music. Surveying set works drawn from different periods, the module considers the roots, emergence and establishment of this repertoire and its associated practices. Students will consider how musical compositions were historically shaped by cultural and material contexts, and will develop analytical skills in using musical scores to describe musical organisation, style, and genre. Students are not required to perform as part of this module, but some prior familiarity with western musical notation is necessary.

MU1005 Words and Music (20 credits) (Semester 1)

This module will examine the relationship between words and music, discussing ways in which language and music can interact, and the different ways in which words and music may construct meaning. Examples will be drawn primarily from Western art music. No prior knowledge of musical notation is necessary to take this module. Students should, however, expect to learn and use appropriate terms and concepts to describe and analyse set works. The syllabus will draw on works composed in different cultural contexts to illustrate both short and longer sung musical genres, including some excerpts of longer, dramatic works. This module is intended to be of particular interest to students of English and other modern languages, but is open to all with an interest in music and lyrics.

MU1004 Making Music 1 (20 credits) (Semester 2)

This module is designed for accomplished instrumentalists and vocalists who wish to develop their practical music making at university. The module offers students a broad grounding in the differing ways in which musicians can be free and creative agents, and enables students to better understand how their personal practise can contribute towards musical growth and technical development in the short and long term. Students play or sing each week in a performance class to prepare for a final solo performance (which can be in any style or genre), have the chance to compose for or perform in an ensemble, and also receive weekly seminars on subjects ranging from the philosophy of musical interpretation to coping with performance anxiety. Students should have a grade 8 performance certificate or take an audition with the module co-ordinator.

MU1006 An Introduction to Ethnomusicology (Semester 2)

Ethnomusicology is the study of why, and how, human beings are musical (Timothy Rice). It is interdisciplinary, and draws upon e.g. musicology, anthropology, cultural studies, and performance studies. This course aims to provide students with a broad overview of the emergence of the academic field; insights into its methods of enquiry using both emic (insider) and etic (outsider) approaches to recording and writing about musical activity; exposure to some important critical texts and questions; and some illustrative case studies from a variety of different cultural contexts.

2000 Level

MU2002 Scottish Music (20 credits) (Semester 2)

The module explores a wide range of music in Scotland, examining Highland and Lowland folk music and more recent pop music as well as classical music composed from the medieval era onwards. In doing so, it aims to build up an understanding of the relationship between Scottish music and the society in which it is produced. No prior knowledge of musical notation is necessary: this module will interest all those interested in the rich and varied musical culture of the country in which they are living.

MU2006 Music Leadership (20 credits) (Semester 1)

This module will give students with existing music skills the opportunity to work with others to create, build and deliver a musical event. Working in groups, they will be given the opportunity to create repertoire, learn about leading rehearsals, and produce a final performance. All students will participate in all taught areas of the syllabus. Input from professional practitioners will help them to relate their learning to real-world situations. Prerequisites: normally a pass of 11 or above in any one of MU1003, MU1013 or MU1004.

MU2001 Making Music 2 (20 credits) (Semester 2)

This module builds on the practical skills and musicianship developed in MU1004. Students can choose to perform a 30-minute solo performance or submit a portfolio of compositions. The module will support students who wish to tackle more demanding repertoire or compose for more ambitious forces, and help students to understand how their creative voice can be enhanced by scholarship from the field of Performance Studies and their own reflective practice. Written work is very closely aligned to performance or composition, and offers further opportunities to develop and articulate personal views. Students will receive subsidised instrumental/vocal/composition lessons at the Music Centre (covering five hours' tuition over the semester).

MU2004 Electronic Music (20 credits) (Semester 1)

This is a practical module offering students the opportunity to work in small groups in the Music Centre's studio to create music from electronic sources. Accompanying lectures and seminars examine the history of electronic music, amplified music and computer music and look at works by significant composers and innovators who have worked in these genres, from Stockhausen to Jimi Hendrix. The module also offers tuition in music software packages such as Sibelius, Logic and Reaper. No prior experience in electronic music is necessary in order to take the module, but some knowledge of music notation or music theory would be advantageous.

3000 Level

MU3001 Making Music 3 (30 credits) (Semester 2)

This module caters for students aiming to make music to a professional level or students wishing to go on to study practical music at postgraduate level: students can choose to focus on solo performance, composition or conducting. The module emphasises how students can best present their unique creative voice in their final public performance. Teaching will include instrumental/vocal/conducting lessons at the Music Centre (covering five hours' tuition over the semester), masterclasses with professional musicians and weekly performance classes. Students will also receive teaching in creative entrepreneurship to enhance their understanding of the music profession.

MU3002 Richard Wagner's 'The Ring of the Nibelung' (30 credits) (Semester 2)

The Ring of the Nibelung is the ultimate interdisciplinary artwork. This module combines detailed examination of the four dramas with consideration of their historical, philosophical, literary and musical contexts; it also considers how The Ring has been received and interpreted and its influence on subsequent artists.

4000 Level

MU4001 Music Research (30 credits) (All year)

This module offers students the opportunity to undertake a music research project. The curriculum explores four strands of music research: musicology, music education, composition, and performance. By gaining a broad perspective on the discipline, its possible methodologies, and impact, students will contextualise their own research interests. This preparatory work will then inform students' design, execution and reporting of a research project. One-to-one supervision will support this self-directed work.

Academic Staff

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