Our Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Music: Professional Performance programme revolves around the needs, strategic goals and enthusiasms of a performer on the verge of their professional career.

To get the most out of the course, students will need to be highly self-motivated and able to work on their own initiative. There is an expectation that, with the support of your course tutors, you will take advantage of being on the programme to seek out and maximise professional development opportunities which will be strategically useful to your developing career.

In other words, this is not a course leading to the start of your career, but one which you take alongside it in its early stages. The principal aim is that, when you graduate, not only will your professional life be well underway, but you will also have developed the confidence and skills to go on shaping it.

Throughout the programme you will have expert 1:1 vocal tuition in your First-Study area. Currently, the allowance is 53 hours across the course: 40 will be assigned to your main tutor(s), but you will be given some choice as to how you deploy the other (decisions will be made in consultation with and with the agreement of the Course Director and Head of Department). Further information about individual departments can be accessed on the Conservatoire’s website. [http://www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/departments](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/departments)

All students on this programme have a weekly performance class together. You will also have access to the Conservatoire's full range of ensembles, departmental workshops, performance classes and masterclasses. As an emerging professional musician, it is hoped and expected that you will carve a distinctive niche for yourself within your department, becoming a role model for students at earlier stages in their studies.

On the performance side, your studies will culminate in three performance assessments in a professional context. For full-time students these will usually take place in terms two, three and four; for part-time students, one assessment will usually take place in Year One, and the remaining two in Year Two.

Throughout the course, your work in performance will be supported by the Professional Performer’s Portfolio module. This module is focused on providing you with practical preparation for the professional world. It will be supported by 15 workshops for the whole cohort.

Each student's work across the course - from programme planning to professional development - will be supported by 15 hours of 1:1 tutorial support; this is in addition to your 1:1 First-Study hours.
Opera Repetiteur Specialism

Assessment requirements:

1 Piano Skills: an Opera Workshop production (public performance).

2 Coaching Skills: solo and ensemble numbers \textit{(in camera)}.

3 A forty-five-minute mock-audition \textit{(in camera)} comprising:
   a) performance of a piece for piano solo of approximately five minutes’ duration (own choice);
   b) performance (on piano or harpsichord) of a set, prepared excerpt from an opera (including accompanied recitative) to be sung and played by the student;
   c) performance (on piano only) of a set, prepared excerpt with a more demanding piano part than in b) above. The excerpt will be directed by a conductor;
   d) sight-reading of several excerpts covering a wide range of musical styles, and including some vocal score-reading;
   e) language skills: unseen extracts in three languages other than English (normally French, German and Italian) to be read by the student.

Notes

a) Assessment 1: the scenes to be included in the workshop production will be chosen by the Head of Vocal & Operatic Studies. The duration of the assessment shall be not less than fifty minutes.

b) Assessment 2: the repertoire will be chosen by the Head of Vocal & Operatic Studies. The duration of the assessment shall be not less than forty-five minutes.

c) Assessment 3: the solo piano piece should be chosen with the advice of student’s piano tutor, and must be approved in advance by the Programme Director. The repertoire and texts of elements b) to e) will be chosen by the Head of Vocal & Operatic Studies.
Professional Performer’s Portfolio

This module requires you to compile a portfolio comprising three parts:

- **Part 1** involves the assembly of a set of 'tools' that will be of practical use in the professional context and which you will undoubtedly already have in development (e.g. CV, web presence, recorded samples etc.)

- **Part 2** requires you to pursue, undertake and document professional-level experience while on the course, and to reflect on that in relation to your subsequent career plans and aspirations.

- **Part 3** is a student-defined project where the focus should be an area relevant specifically to your individual career aspirations (e.g. a CD recording, setting up a new ensemble, or a community or education project).

During your course, you will be encouraged to take advantage of our close links with professional arts organisations in addition to building your own network of work contacts and experience.

Our Professional Partners include:
Former students

‘Since leaving college, I have gone on to develop a happy and busy portfolio career as a performer-teacher and I feel that the APD course gave me the right amount of time and space to hone my skills. I was also given hours to pursue with an external teacher - I chose a teacher in Amsterdam, with whom I continued a positive student-teacher relationship for about four years following the course. I feel in general that I got a huge amount of support from everyone at Birmingham.’

Chris Orton, Recorder
http://www.chrisorton.com

Di Xiao, Piano
http://www.dixiao.co.uk

Maraca2, Percussion Duo
http://www.maraca2.com

Jack McNeill, Clarinet
http://www.jackmcneill.co.uk

‘I found the full-time AdvPgDip so helpful because it was a challenge to prepare three different recitals in the time frame. I have found this sort of time-management invaluable since completing the course, often being required to prepare parts to the high standards expected, with even less time!’

For further information please contact:

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