Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	Master of Music
2	**BCU Course Code**	PT1245 (FT) PT1279 (PT) PT1287 (12-month version)
3	**Awarding Institution**	Birmingham City University
4	**Teaching Institution(s)** (if different from point 3)	N/A
5	**Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation** (if applicable)	N/A

6	**Course Description**
	The principal aim of our Master of Music (MMus) course is to provide you with knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in your chosen branch(es) of the music profession, giving you a head-start in addressing the challenges involved in becoming a professional musician. The course is suitable for both recent graduates and suitably qualified mature students, with a range of support to ensure that you leave Royal Birmingham Conservatoire ready to pursue a musical career. A distinctive feature of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire's postgraduate provision is that it will give you the opportunity to make choices within your course directly relevant to your future career aspirations, both within your Principal Study area and in your supporting studies. All routes include a core Career Development module designed to get you thinking about your future professional plans, and a broad menu of optional Professional Development modules designed to help you work towards achieving your personal career aspirations. You will also take a core module designed to develop your skills as a researcher or informed practitioner. You will have the opportunity to study in one of several Principal Study areas, most of which are also offered at PgDip or PgCert level. **Instrumental Performance (MMus, PgDip, PgCert)** This specialism prepares you for a solo, chamber or orchestral career. It is available to students pursuing orchestral instruments, keyboard instruments and other solo instruments such as recorder, guitar, and saxophone, with a route also offered for bowed string and guitar ensembles. We also welcome instrumentalists and singers who are developing fusions of folk music with other genres, students wishing to focus on songwriting, and woodwind players who do not wish to follow the traditional orchestral route but would prefer to pursue a career as a multi-instrumentalist in musical theatre. **Vocal Performance (MMus, PgDip, PgCert)** This route offers advanced-level training in singing. You're encouraged and enabled to increase your experience as a performer and to broaden your repertoire, though you can also take the opportunity to specialise if you wish. You'll enjoy regular opportunities to sing in a variety of contexts, both as a soloist and in ensembles with other performers. **Orchestral Performance (Strings) (MMus, PgDip)**

Developed in partnership with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO), this route is for advanced level string players considering professional orchestral auditions and on the brink of a professional career. You will spend a significant amount of rehearsal time in the CBSO alongside one or more dedicated host players who will act as mentors. You may also be offered opportunities to play at the back of the section to gain further experience. In addition to developing your technical facility, musicianship, interpretative skills, and stylistic awareness, you will expand your knowledge of orchestral repertoire, learn how to prepare for rehearsal in the most efficient way, develop strategies which will help you to integrate within your section, and build confidence in preparing for orchestral auditions.

Conducting (MMus, PgDip)
We offer the following:
- Brass Band Conducting
- Choral Conducting
- Orchestral Conducting

All our conducting pathways offer the technical training, collaborative opportunities, and podium time necessary to help you prepare for a career as a professional conductor. You will spend considerable time developing your directing techniques in rehearsals and will also have opportunities to demonstrate your skills in performance. In addition to attending and participating in scheduled ensemble activities, you will be encouraged to explore other opportunities to engage as conductor or observer. Students across all three pathways will also attend classes/workshops of their peers studying other conducting specialisms.

Jazz (MMus, PgDip, PgCert)
Designed for recent graduates and suitably qualified mature students, these programmes provide high quality advanced-level tuition, enabling you to specialise either as a Jazz performer or instigator. You will benefit from regular individual specialist tuition from professional jazz musicians active on today's scene. There will be an emphasis on the art of improvisation as well as regular opportunities to rehearse and perform with small and large jazz ensembles.

Experimental Performance (MMus, PgDip, PgCert)
Designed for emerging arts practitioners, this route provides you with a unique opportunity to undertake independent artistic projects in a fully supportive environment. Practitioners from a variety of disciplines (including, but not limited to, instrumental/vocal performance, composition, dance, choreography, theatre, visual and performance art, and creative writing) come together with likeminded people. The core of your study will be formed by your own artistic ideas, which are developed, through research and dialogue, into professional practical projects.

Composition (MMus, PgDip, PgCert)
Our composition route actively celebrates the diversity of today's musical genres, and fosters artists who challenge, innovate, and transform notions of artistic practice today. You'll spend most of your time writing music for professional and student ensembles, whether you choose to respond to our set briefs or work on your own projects. You'll be encouraged to express yourself in multiple musical and artistic genres. By studying composition within a thriving conservatoire setting, you'll have excellent opportunities to collaborate with performers and to have your works performed.

Music Technology (MMus, PgDip, PgCert)
This pathway offers an exciting opportunity for composers and composer-performers to experiment with and develop expertise in the creative application of established and new music technologies.

You will be based in our £57-million Conservatoire building, which features our Concert Hall, 150-seat Recital Hall, more than 70 practice rooms, ensemble rooms and workshops, seven recording studios, editing, and mastering suites, and our black-box performance space known as The Lab. All our spaces are acoustically designed to provide a world-class music-making environment.

We also benefit from being part of Birmingham City University's Faculty of Arts, Design and Media, which provides many opportunities for collaboration and interdisciplinary projects.

What's covered in this course?
- Regular individual tuition in your Principal Study area from leading UK and internationally renowned performers, practitioners, teachers, and researchers.
- Bespoke support classes in musicianship and repertoire.
- The opportunity to participate in a wide variety of creative projects, including interdisciplinary collaborations
- Frequent opportunities to perform, both within Departmental activities and in concerts.
- Access to forums, seminars and masterclasses with distinguished visiting artists, composers, and performers
- Access to the Conservatoire's broad range of ensemble activities, including chamber music, operatic productions, Brass Band, Wind Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, 'Repertoire' and 'Pops' Orchestras, Thallein (Contemporary Music) Ensemble, and the Folk Ensemble.
- The opportunity to tailor your course to your individual needs through wide-ranging Professional Development modules.
- A chance to network with leading professionals from around the world.

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7	**Course Awards**		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	Master of Music	7	240
	Master of Music with Professional Placement	7	300
	The final award will indicate a specialism in one of the following, depending on the pathway chosen: 1) Vocal Performance 2) Instrumental Performance 3) Orchestral Performance 4) Choral Conducting 5) Orchestral Conducting 6) Brass Band Conducting 7) Composition 8) Jazz 9) Music Technology 10) Experimental Performance		
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	Master of Arts Vocal Performance	7	180
	Master of Arts Instrumental Performance		
	Master of Arts Orchestral Performance		
	Master of Arts Choral Conducting		
	Master of Arts Orchestral Conducting		
	Master of Arts Brass Band Conducting		

	Master of Arts Composition Master of Arts Jazz Master of Arts Music Technology Master of Arts Experimental Performance		
	Postgraduate Diploma Vocal Performance Postgraduate Diploma Instrumental Performance Postgraduate Diploma Orchestral Performance Postgraduate Diploma Choral Conducting Postgraduate Diploma Orchestral Conducting Postgraduate Diploma Brass Band Conducting Postgraduate Diploma Composition Postgraduate Diploma Jazz Postgraduate Diploma Music Technology Postgraduate Diploma Experimental Performance	7	120
	Postgraduate Certificate Vocal Performance Postgraduate Certificate Instrumental Performance Postgraduate Certificate Composition Postgraduate Certificate Jazz Postgraduate Certificate Music Technology Postgraduate Certificate Experimental Performance *N.B. The titles of the above PgCert exit awards are predicated on the successful completion of a Principal Study module.* Postgraduate Certificate Music *N.B. The above award is achieved if a total of 60 credits has been passed, but these credits do not include a Principal Study module.*	7	60
		7	60
8	**Derogation from the University Regulations**		
	1. Compensation of marginal failure is not permitted on Principal Study modules 2. Condonement of failed modules is not permitted for Principal Study modules 3. Compensation of marginal failure is not permitted for 'The Emerging Researcher' suite of 40 credit option modules 4. Condonement of failed modules for 'The Emerging Researcher' suite of 40 credit option modules is not permitted 5. Compensation of marginal failure is not permitted for the 'Reflective Practitioner' suite of modules 6. Condonement of failed modules is not permitted for the 'Reflective Practitioner' suite of modules 7. For Principal Study modules with more than one item of assessment, all items of assessment must be passed in order to pass the module 8. For modules with more than one item of assessment, resits that are allocated a grade are capped at the item level 9. The final calculation for MMus awards is based on a weighted average of the best 180 credits out of a total of 240 credits required for the award		

9	Delivery Patterns			
Mode(s) of Study	**Location(s) of Study**	**Duration of Study**	**Code(s)**	
Full Time	Royal Birmingham Conservatoire	2 years	PT1245	
Part Time	Royal Birmingham Conservatoire	3 years	PT1279	
Full Time with Professional Placement	Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (and placement provider)			
Full Time	Royal Birmingham Conservatoire	12 months	PT1287	

10	Entry Requirements

The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/.

11	**Course Learning Outcomes**

Knowledge and Understanding

1	You will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced and current knowledge base in relation to all aspects of your Principal Study area.
2	You will be able to show a significantly expanded portfolio of professional skills and knowledge that is complementary to your Principal Study area.
3	You will be able to show an increased understanding of the context in which the 21st-century professional musician operates, and an awareness of where you fit within this context.

Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

4	You will be able to employ self-directed research in relation to your Principal Study work and to use your findings to underpin your decision-making in that context.
5	You will be able to engage intellectually in areas complementary to your Principal Study area, deploying appropriate investigative techniques and/or practical skills, and employing critical thinking.
6	You will be able to situate your own practice as an informed musician within a broader context through critical engagement with relevant scholarship and/or theory.
7	You will be able to critically evaluate your own practice and that of others, and apply that judgement to your own learning.

Practical and Professional Skills

8	You will be able to practise your Principal Study specialism with technical assurance and artistic independence, aspiring to professional levels of presentation.
9	You will be able to initiate, manage and complete projects independently and/or collaboratively.
10	You will be able to communicate ideas and/or arguments clearly, accurately and effectively in a medium appropriate to the context and/or audience.
11	You will be able to demonstrate a professional attitude to all aspects of your work, including a willingness to engage in ongoing personal and professional development.

Key Transferable Skills

12	You will be able to employ a well-developed sense of autonomy and self-reliance.
13	You will be able to demonstrate effective organizational skills, including self-organization.
14	You will be able to demonstrate skills of reflection and self-reflection.
15	You will be able to employ problem-solving and decision-making skills.

12	**Course Requirements**

| 12a | **Master of Music (240 Credits)**

Level 7:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete THREE CORE modules (totalling 140 credits):
- *The Career Development module (20 credits), and*
- *Both Principal Study 1 and 2 modules (each 60 credits, chosen according to the specialism – see below).* |

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
MUS7119	Career Development	20
Students must complete one of the Principal Study modules below:*		
MUS7120	Principal Study 1: Instrumental and Vocal Performance	60
MUS7121	Principal Study 1: Percussion	60
MUS7122	Principal Study 1: Orchestral Performance	60
MUS7123	Principal Study 1: Choral Conducting	60
MUS7124	Principal Study 1: Orchestral Conducting	60
MUS7125	Principal Study 1: Brass Band Conducting	60
MUS7126	Principal Study 1: Jazz Performance	60
MUS7127	Principal Study 1: Jazz Instigator	60
MUS7170	Principal Study 1: Global Traditional Music Performance	60
MUS7128	Principal Study 1: Composition	60
MUS7129	Principal Study 1: Music Technology	60
MUS7130	Principal Study 1: Experimental Performance	60
Students must complete one of the Principal Study modules below:*		
MUS7131	Principal Study 2: Instrumental and Vocal Performance	60
MUS7132	Principal Study 2: Percussion	60
MUS7133	Principal Study 2: Orchestral Performance	60
MUS7134	Principal Study 2: Choral Conducting	60
MUS7135	Principal Study 2: Orchestral Conducting	60
MUS7136	Principal Study 2: Brass Band Conducting	60
MUS7137	Principal Study 2: Jazz Performance	60
MUS7138	Principal Study 2: Jazz Instigator	60
MUS7139	Principal Study 2: Composition	60
MUS7140	Principal Study 2: Music Technology	60
MUS7141	Principal Study 2: Experimental Performance	60
MUS7171	Principal Study 2: Global Traditional Music Performance	60

*Principal Study areas chosen will be dependent upon the specialist pathway chosen by the student. Refer to section 7b: "Exit Awards and Credits Awarded" for full corresponding list.

In order to complete this course, a student must successfully complete at least 100 credits from the following indicative list* of OPTIONAL modules:

- *THREE Professional Development modules (20 credits each), and*
- *ONE MMus optional module (40 credits)*

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
Professional Development Modules – Students must complete THREE		
	Conservatoire Based Modules	
MUS7142	Concepts in Musicology	20
MUS7143	Contemporary Music Concepts and Practice	20
MUS7144	Creative Interactive Music Technology Performance	20
MUS7145	Critical Editing Techniques	20
MUS7146	Documentation	20
MUS7147	Experimental Performance in Context(s)	20
MUS7148	Historical Instrument Performance	20
MUS7149	Historical Performance Practice	20
MUS7150	Independent Scholarship in Music**	20
MUS7151	Music and Ideas	20
MUS7152	Music Technology Contexts	20
MUS7153	Orchestration	20
MUS7154	Performing and Producing in the Studio	20
MUS7155	Professional Music Criticism	20
MUS7156	Self-Promotion Project	20
MUS7157	Teaching Matters: Principles and Practice	20
ADM7001	Work Placement	20
MUS7158	Writing Music for Media	20
MUS6095	Music, Community and Wellbeing (BMus module)	20
**MUS7175	Professional Versatility	20
Students must complete ONE of the following 40-credit MMus optional modules		
	The Emerging Researcher:	
MUS7159	Research Project	40
MUS7160	Critical Edition	40
MUS7161	Lecture-Recital	40
MUS7162	The Reflective Practitioner There are two pathways through this module:	40

- Professional Placement	
- Creative Interdisciplinary Artist	

* Please note that the above list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

** *Note that the Professional Versatility module may only be taken by an MMus (2-year version) student where the 60-credit Principal Study 1 module has been passed with Distinction*

Level 6:

In order to qualify for the award of MMus with Professional Placement, a student must successfully complete all of the Level 7 modules listed above as well as the following Level 6 module:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PLA6003	Professional Placement	60

Master of Music (12 month route; 240 credits)

Level 7:

For entry onto the 12 months version, students must be credited with Principal Study 1 (60 credits) on admission.

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete TWO CORE modules (totalling 140 credits):
- *The Career Development module (20 credits), and*
- *Principal Study 2 module (60 credits, chosen according to the specialism – see below).*

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
MUS7119	Career Development	20
Students must achieve one of the Principal Study modules below by RPL:		
MUS7120	Principal Study 1: Instrumental and Vocal Performance	60
MUS7121	Principal Study 1: Percussion	60
MUS7122	Principal Study 1: Orchestral Performance	60
MUS7123	Principal Study 1: Choral Conducting	60
MUS7124	Principal Study 1: Orchestral Conducting	60
MUS7125	Principal Study 1: Brass Band Conducting	60
MUS7126	Principal Study 1: Jazz Performance	60
MUS7127	Principal Study 1: Jazz Instigator	60
MUS7128	Principal Study 1: Composition	60
MUS7129	Principal Study 1: Music Technology	60

	MUS7130	Principal Study 1: Experimental Performance	60
	MUS7170	Principal Study 1: Global Traditional Music Performance	60
	Students must complete one of the Principal Study modules below:*		
	MUS7131	Principal Study 2: Instrumental and Vocal Performance	60
	MUS7132	Principal Study 2: Percussion	60
	MUS7133	Principal Study 2: Orchestral Performance	60
	MUS7134	Principal Study 2: Choral Conducting	60
	MUS7135	Principal Study 2: Orchestral Conducting	60
	MUS7136	Principal Study 2: Brass Band Conducting	60
	MUS7137	Principal Study 2: Jazz Performance	60
	MUS7138	Principal Study 2: Jazz Instigator	60
	MUS7139	Principal Study 2: Composition	60
	MUS7140	Principal Study 2: Music Technology	60
	MUS7141	Principal Study 2: Experimental Performance	60
	MUS7171	Principal Study 2: Global Traditional Music Performance	60

In order to complete this course, a student must successfully complete at least 100 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules:*

- *THREE Professional Development modules (20 credits each), and*
- *ONE MMus optional module (40 credits)*

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
Professional Development Modules – Students must complete THREE		
	Conservatoire Based Modules	
MUS7142	Concepts in Musicology	20
MUS7143	Contemporary Music Concepts and Practice	20
MUS7144	Creative Interactive Music Technology Performance	20
MUS7145	Critical Editing Techniques	20
MUS7146	Documentation	20
MUS7147	Experimental Performance in Context(s)	20
MUS7148	Historical Instrument Performance	20
MUS7149	Historical Performance Practice	20
MUS7150	Independent Scholarship in Music**	20
MUS7151	Music and Ideas	20
MUS7152	Music Technology Contexts	20
MUS7153	Orchestration	20
MUS7154	Performing and Producing in the Studio	20
MUS7155	Professional Music Criticism	20
MUS7156	Self-Promotion Project	20
MUS7157	Teaching Matters: Principles and Practice	20
ADM7001	Work Placement	20
MUS7158	Writing Music for Media	20

| MUS6095 | Music, Community and Wellbeing (BMus module) | 20 |
| MUS7175 | Professional Versatility | 20 |

Students must complete ONE of the following 40-credit MMus optional modules		
The Emerging Researcher:		
MUS7159	Research Project	40
MUS7160	Critical Edition	40
MUS7161	Lecture-Recital	40
MUS7162	The Reflective Practitioner There are two pathways through this module: - Professional Placement - Creative Interdisciplinary Artist	40

12b   Structure Diagram

MMus (2 year version)

Year 1

Semester 1	Semester 2
Principal Study 1 (60 credits) [CORE] [Specific module will be determined by the pathway]	
Career Development (20 credits) [CORE]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	

Year 2

Semester 1	Semester 2
Principal Study 2 (60 credits) [CORE] [Specific module will be determined by the pathway]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	
MMus Option (40 credits) **[CORE-OPTION]**	

Year 3

Semester 1	Semester 2
Professional Placement (60 credits)	

There is some room for negotiation in how the course unfolds for a part-time MMus student over three years. While Principal Study activities will be ongoing from the start of the course, we would expect the Principal Study 1 module to be taken in the second year, and Principal Study 2 in the third. The Career Development module should normally be taken in the first year.

The following two examples provide a guide:

Example 1

Part-Time MMus Year 1, 60 credits

Semester 1	Semester 2

Part-Time MMus Year 2, 100 credits

Career Development (20 credits) [CORE]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	

Semester 1	Semester 2
Principal Study 1 (60 credits) [CORE] [Specific module will be determined by the pathway]	
MMus Option (40 credits) [OPTION]	

Part-Time MMus Year 3, 80 credits

Semester 1	Semester 2
Principal Study 2 (60 credits) [CORE] [Specific module will be determined by the pathway]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	

Example 2

Part-Time MMus Year 1, 60 credits

Semester 1	Semester 2
Career Development (20 credits) [CORE]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	

Part-Time MMus Year 2, 80 credits

Semester 1	Semester 2
Principal Study 1 (60 credits) [CORE] [Specific module will be determined by the pathway]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	

Part-Time MMus Year 3, 100 credits

Semester 1	Semester 2
Principal Study 2 (60 credits) [CORE] [Specific module will be determined by the pathway]	
MMus Option (40 credits) [OPTION]	

In the case of the 12-month route (with credit for advanced standing), a student will take all the modules except the one(s) for which credit for prior learning or experience (APEL) has been granted. There will be some negotiation of the standard assessment dates so that the workload is spread manageably across the period of study.

MMus (12 months version)

Year 1

Semester 1	Semester 2
Principal Study 2 (60 credits) [CORE] [Specific module will be determined by the pathway]	
Career Development (20 credits) [CORE]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	
Professional Development Option (20 credits) [OPTION]	
MMus Option (40 credits) **[CORE-OPTION]**	

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	480
Directed Learning	480
Private Study	1440
Total Hours	2400

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Practical Examination OR Equivalent Principal Study Assessment	50%
Coursework [which may involve practical examination / in-person assessment]	50%