

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	BMus (Hons) Routes: Performance, Composition and Music Technology
2	Course Code	US0926
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	Not applicable
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	Not applicable

6	Course Description
	<p>The BMus (Hons) degree at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire will help you to realise your potential and prepare you for a career in the music profession, whether that is in performance, composition, or music technology.</p> <p>The programme will develop your specialist musical skills as well as developing your theoretical, historical, and practice-based knowledge, all the while encouraging your individual creativity. As a result, you will become an independent learner, a critical interpreter, and a reflective practitioner.</p> <p>You will have the opportunity to study in one of three Principal Study areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance (Instrumental or Vocal) • Composition • Music Technology <p>You will graduate with a named award that reflects the Principal Study area chosen.</p> <p>During your time at the Conservatoire, you will study within a particular Department that is determined by your Principal Study area. Our departments are arranged by both instrument and specialism and include: Brass; Composition; Historical Performance; Keyboard; Music Technology; Percussion; Strings (bowed and plucked); Vocal and Operatic; and Woodwind.</p> <p>With specialist tuition throughout all four years of the course, you will get the individual attention you need to prepare for a successful career. You will benefit from the care and attention of our highly qualified professional team of tutors and support staff, all of whom are dedicated to supporting and developing the potential of each student.</p> <p>You will be based in our £57-million Conservatoire building, which features the 440-seat Bradshaw Concert Hall; the smaller Recital Hall; our black-box performance space known as The Lab; our dedicated Eastside Jazz Club; seven recording studios, editing and mastering suites; not to mention a large number of practice rooms, ensemble rooms and teaching workshops. All our spaces are acoustically designed to provide a world-class music-making environment.</p> <p>Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is a friendly, welcoming, and highly supportive environment. We also benefit from being part of Birmingham City University's School of Arts, Design which provides many opportunities for collaboration and interdisciplinary projects.</p>

	<p>What's covered in this course?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to benefiting from individual tuition in your specialist area, you will enjoy a range of activities designed to develop your artistry, musical fluency, and personal and professional awareness. • You will find yourself immersed in regular masterclasses and performance or composition workshops. Individual ensemble coaching and playing and teaching techniques complete the picture, helping you to become a well-rounded musician. • Top-flight singers and musicians – including baritone Roderick Williams, violinist Tasmin Little OBE, cellist Ben Davies, soprano Danielle de Niese, and pianist Stephen Hough – are among the many musicians who have worked with and inspired our students. • In terms of Professional Development, you will also explore themes such as musicianship, history and performance practice, education, and outreach work, not to mention other topics such as health and wellbeing for performers, community music-making, conducting skills and other musical traditions. • Towards the end of your course, you will embark on a final project that allows you to explore your personal musical aspirations. This can range from live performances to business projects; musicological dissertations to multi-media installations; educational events to professionally marketed recordings.
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Bachelor of Music with Honours <i>The final award will indicate a specialism in one of the following, depending on the pathway chosen:</i> 1) Performance 2) Composition 3) Music Technology	6	480
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Certificate of Higher Education Diploma of Higher Education Bachelor of Music <i>The final award will indicate a specialism in one of the following, depending on the pathway chosen:</i> 1) Performance 2) Composition 3) Music Technology	4 5 6	120 240 360

8	Variation from the University Regulations		
	This course has approved variations to the University's Academic Regulations. These can be accessed via the student contract page: https://www.bcu.ac.uk/student-info/student-contract		

9	Delivery Patterns		
Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
Full Time	City Centre	4 years	US0926

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 & Understanding
1	Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of repertoire, practices, texts, resources and concepts appropriate to the Principal Study area.
2	Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and understanding of musical contexts, including social, cultural and historical practices.
3	Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between theory and practice in a range of musical contexts relevant to the Principal Study discipline.
4	Demonstrate an understanding of how the chosen field of study fits within both within the wider context of music profession and interdisciplinary settings.
	Cognitive & Intellectual Skills
5	Apply and integrate contextual knowledge and methodologies into musical practice, interpretation and expression
6	Transfer insights between different bodies of knowledge to reach independent conclusions in your own research and practice.
7	Employ advanced musicianship skills to recognise and use essential components of musical language and structure in aural and written contexts.
8	Demonstrate intellectual and creative curiosity in the development of a professional career pathway.
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9	Demonstrate the technical and creative skills required by the performer, composer or music technologist to convey personal expression and imagination in their professional practice.
10	Employ skills of reflection and self-reflection to adapt and respond creatively to professional development opportunities and challenges.
11	Demonstrate an awareness of different professional and cultural contexts within the music profession and their conventions and expectations.
12	Demonstrate understanding of and an ability to work within the legal and ethical frameworks applicable to the contemporary music profession.
	Key Transferable Skills
13	Demonstrate the ability to work with autonomy and self-motivation.
14	Demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively and cooperatively in a variety of contexts.
15	Demonstrate the ability to plan and manage time and workloads effectively.
16	Communicate and present the outcomes of work in written, aural and/or practical forms, using ICT as appropriate to enhance and support communication.

12	Course Requirements																																																																					
12a	<p>Year 1 — Level 4:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete one of the following Principal Study modules and all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>MUS4061</td><td>Principal Study: Performance 1</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS4062</td><td>Principal Study: Percussion 1</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS4063</td><td>Principal Study: Composition 1</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS4064</td><td>Principal Study: Music Technology 1</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS4065</td><td>Language of Music 1</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS4066</td><td>Contextual Studies: Performance Traditions 1</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS4067</td><td>Professional Portfolio 1: Community Engagement</td><td>20</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Year 2 — Level 5:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete one of the following Principal Study modules and all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>MUS5059</td><td>Principal Study: Performance 2</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS5060</td><td>Principal Study: Percussion 2</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS5061</td><td>Principal Study: Composition 2</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS5062</td><td>Principal Study: Music Technology 2</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS5063</td><td>Language of Music 2</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS5064</td><td>Contextual Studies: Performance Traditions 2</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS5065</td><td>Professional Portfolio 2: Pedagogy and practice</td><td>20</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Year 3 — Level 5 and 6:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete one of the following Principal Study modules and all the following CORE modules (totalling 100 credits):</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>MUS6096</td><td>Principal Study: Performance 3</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS6097</td><td>Principal Study: Percussion 3</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS6098</td><td>Principal Study: Composition 3</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS6099</td><td>Principal Study: Music Technology 3</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS5067</td><td>Language of Music: Specialisms 1</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>MUS5066</td><td>Contextual Studies: Specialisms 1</td><td>20</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In addition, a student must successfully complete a further 20 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.</i></p>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MUS4061	Principal Study: Performance 1	60	MUS4062	Principal Study: Percussion 1	60	MUS4063	Principal Study: Composition 1	60	MUS4064	Principal Study: Music Technology 1	60	MUS4065	Language of Music 1	20	MUS4066	Contextual Studies: Performance Traditions 1	20	MUS4067	Professional Portfolio 1: Community Engagement	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MUS5059	Principal Study: Performance 2	60	MUS5060	Principal Study: Percussion 2	60	MUS5061	Principal Study: Composition 2	60	MUS5062	Principal Study: Music Technology 2	60	MUS5063	Language of Music 2	20	MUS5064	Contextual Studies: Performance Traditions 2	20	MUS5065	Professional Portfolio 2: Pedagogy and practice	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MUS6096	Principal Study: Performance 3	60	MUS6097	Principal Study: Percussion 3	60	MUS6098	Principal Study: Composition 3	60	MUS6099	Principal Study: Music Technology 3	60	MUS5067	Language of Music: Specialisms 1	20	MUS5066	Contextual Studies: Specialisms 1	20
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Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
ADM5006	Collaborative Practice	20
ADM5001	Live Project	20
ADM5000	Work Placement	20

Year 4 — Level 6

In Year 4, all students will select a total of 120 credits which must include one module from List A (Principal Study), one module from List B (Project), and at least 20 and no more than 40 credits from list C (indicative list of optional modules).

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
List A: Principal Study		
MUS6101	Final Recital (40)	40
MUS6102	Final Recital (60)	60
MUS6103	Final Composition Portfolio (40)	40
MUS6104	Final Composition Portfolio (60)	60
MUS6105	Final Music Technology Portfolio (40)	40
MUS6106	Final Music Technology Portfolio (60)	60
List B: Project		
MUS6117	Final Project (20)	20
MUS6107	Final Project (40)	40
MUS6108	Final Project (60)	60
List C: Options		
MUS6118	The Teaching Musician: Professional Perspectives	20
MUS6095	Music, Community and Wellbeing	20
MUS6110	Language of Music: Specialism 2	20
MUS6111	Contextual Studies: Specialism 2	20
MUS6112	Professional Development	20
ADM6007	Work Placement	20

12b Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only as modules will only run if selected by 15 or more students. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

Unless otherwise stated, modules are taught across both semesters.

Year 1: Level 4			
Principal Study 1 Performance, or Percussion, or Composition or Music Technology (60)	Language of Music 1 (20)	Contextual Studies: Performance Traditions 1 (20)	Professional Portfolio 1: Community Engagement (20)
Year 2: Level 5			
Principal Study 2 Performance, or Percussion, or Composition or Music Technology (60)	Language of Music 2 (20)	Contextual Studies: Performance Traditions 2 (20)	Professional portfolio 2: pedagogy and practice (20)
Year 3: Level 6		Year 3: Level 5	
Principal Study 3 Performance, or Percussion, or Composition or Music Technology (60)	Language of Music: Specialisms 1 (20)	Contextual Studies: Specialisms 1 (20):	Optional module (20) A single option normally taken in semester 2 Either <i>Collaborative Practice</i> Or <i>Work Placement</i> Or <i>Live Project</i>
Year 4: Level 6			
Final Recital (40 or 60) Or Final Composition Portfolio (40 or 60) Or Final Music Technology Portfolio (40 or 60)	Final Project (20, 40 or 60)	Optional modules (20 credits each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Development The Teaching Musician: Professional Perspectives Music, Community and Wellbeing Work Placement (Level 6 School module) Contextual Studies: Specialism 2 Language of Music: Specialism 2 	

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 4

Workload

35% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	414
Directed Learning	546
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	50%
Exam	17%
In-Person	33%

Level 5

Workload

28% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	497
Directed Learning	834
Private Study	469
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	46%
Exam	11%
In-Person	43%

Level 6**Workload****25% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity**

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	444
Directed Learning	996
Private Study	360
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	58%
Exam	0%
In-Person	42%