

BMUS(HONS)

Programme overview

Updated 26 April 2023

Programme Structure

Overview

Years 1 and 2

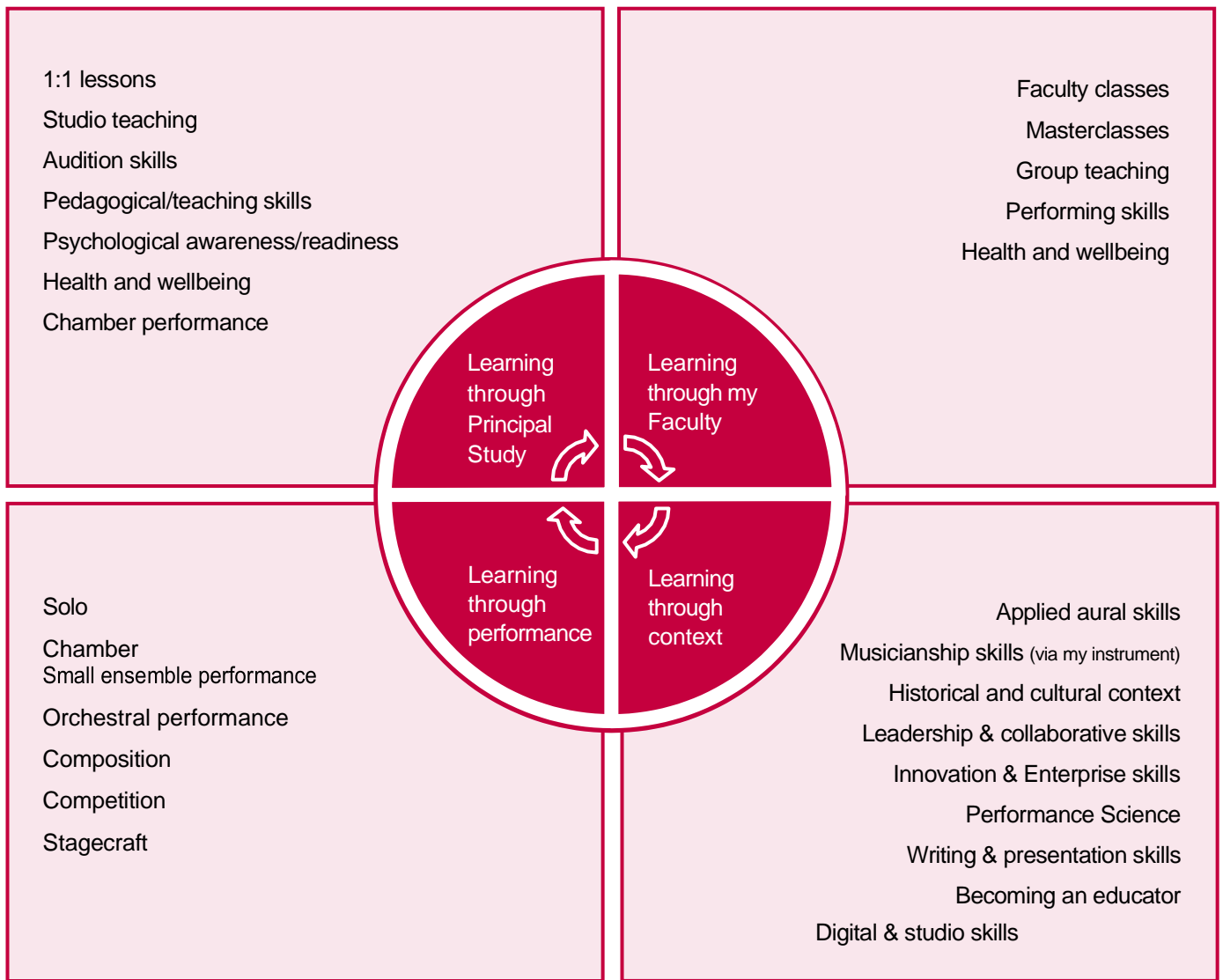
- Principal Study in performance or composition (with optional Related Study or Second Study), with regular faculty-based workshops, activities, and opportunities for performance
- Courses in historical studies & performance practice, practical musicianship & classical improvisation, applied aural skills, study skills, and musicians' health & wellbeing
- Artist Development course in year 2 comprising classes in Stagecraft & Communication and Career Management skills
- Core course on Music Leadership in Year 2, comprising units in Learning & Participation
- Opportunity to fast track to higher levels of study in aural awareness and practical musicianship

Years 3 and 4

- Continuing work in performance and/or composition studies (Principal, Related and Second Study)
- Core course on Music Leadership Skills in Year 3 comprising units in music pedagogy and leadership
- Creation of a personalised programme of study selecting from a varied menu of options (offered on either a yearly or two-yearly basis)

Learning and teaching hours

Learning and teaching hours are calculated as 100 hours per ten credits studied. For BMus students this equates to 4,800 hours over the course of four years, which is split between self-directed study and contact hours with tutors. Contact hours include performances, one-to-one tuition, larger group tuition, seminars, faculty and academic classes, directed rehearsals, masterclasses, competitions and supervised study. Rehearsal and performance contact time will vary according to each student's discipline and chosen study options. The diagram below is designed to illustrate the RCM learning experience.



BMus Programme Modules and Levels of Study

Each module within our undergraduate programme is assigned a level according to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) credit system. Core modules in years 1 and 2 can be taken at levels 4, 5 or 6. Optional modules in years 3 and 4 are taken at levels 5 and 6.

BMus (Hons) Programme Framework

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Principal Study Level 4 (40/60) ¹ Second Study (20) Related Study (0) Joint Principal Study Level 4 (60)	Principal Study Level 5 (40/50/60) Second Study (20) Related Study (10) Joint Principal Study Level 5 (60)	Principal Study Level 6 (60/70/80) Second Study (20) Related Study (10) Joint Principal Study Level 6 (40/40)	Principal Study Level 6G (60/70/80) Joint Principal Study Level 6G (40/40)
Musicianship & Improvisation Level 4, 5 or 6 (20)	Musicianship & Improvisation Level 5 or 6 (10)	Strands of Options (10/20) at Levels 5, 6 These will be organised across the following specialisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied Skills [Musicianship, Aural, Stylistics, Alexander Technique] • Faculty Based Options [Chamber Music, Interpretation of Song, Opera, Acting & Movement] • Music in Context [Historical Studies, Digital & Studio, Innovation & Enterprise] • Music Leadership & Education [Conducting, Instrumental and Vocal Teaching] • Performance Science [Psychology of Music] • Open Project (L6G – 30 credits) [in any of the above areas; Y4 only] 	
Applied Aural Level 4, 5 or 6 (10)	Applied Aural Level 5 or 6 (10) or Aural in Professional Contexts Level 6 (10)		
Historical Studies Level 4 (20)	Historical Studies Level 5 (20)		
Healthy Musician Level 4 (10)	Professional Musician Level 5 (10) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stagecraft & Communication • Digital Skills for Musicians • Career Management 	The Researching Practitioner Level 6 (10)	
	Music Leadership: Learning & Participation Level 5 (10)	Music Leadership: Teaching Skills & Techniques Level 5 (10)	

¹ Numbers in brackets are the credit weighting for the given module.

BMus Core Modules and Options

Please note that optional modules may be subject to change according to student numbers and availability of professors.

Applied Skills	Credits	Pre-requisite (core modules in red)
Alexander Technique L5	20	L4 Healthy Musician
Alexander Technique L6	20	L5 Alexander Technique
Aural in Professional Contexts L6	10	L5 or L6 Applied Aural Skills
Applied Aural Skills L6	10	L5 Applied Aural Skills
Jazz Stylistic Composition L6	20	L5 or L6 Musicianship & Improvisation
Improvisational Ensemble Interpretation: Jazz L6	10	L5 Applied Aural Skills
Improvisational Ensemble Interpretation: Baroque L6	10	L5 or L6 Musicianship & Improvisation
Improvisational Ensemble Interpretation: Experimental L6	10	L5 or L6 Musicianship & Improvisation
Orchestration & Transcription L5	20	L5 or L6 Musicianship & Improvisation
Orchestration & Arrangement L6	20	L5 Orchestration & Transcription
Music and Words L5	10	L5 Historical Studies
Conducting L5	20	L5 or L6 Musicianship & Improvisation
Conducting L6	20	L5 or L6 Musicianship & Improvisation

Faculty-based	Credits	Pre-requisite (core modules in red)
Collaborative Piano L5 *	20	L5 Principal Study Piano
Collaborative Piano L6 *	20	L5 Collaborative Piano
Collaborative Piano L6G *	20	L6 Collaborative Piano
Guitar Accompaniment L5 *	20	L5 Principal Study Guitar
Guitar Accompaniment L6 *	20	L5 Guitar Accompaniment
Interpretation of Song L5	20	L5 Principal Study Voice
Interpretation of Song L6	20	L5 Interpretation of Song
Opera, Acting & Movement L6	20	L6 Principal Study Voice
Organ Improvisation L5 *	20	L5 Principal Study Organ
Organ Improvisation L6 *	20	L5 Organ Improvisation
Chamber Music Performance L5	20	L5 Principal Study
Chamber Music Performance L6	20	L5 Chamber Music Performance
Contemporary Music in Action L6	10	L5 Principal Study
* May not be taken in conjunction with a Second, Related or Joint Principal Study since these options attract 10 hours of additional 1:1 tuition over the year. Principal Study may be taken at 80 credits but with 35 hours tuition only over the year.		

Music in Context	Credits	Pre-requisite (core modules in red)
Collections in Practice A L6	10	L5 Historical Studies
Composition for Screen L6	20	L5 Electronic Music or L5 Second Study Composition
Composition L5	20	L5 or L6 Musicianship & Improvisation
Composition L6	20	L5 Composition
Introduction to Music Technology	10	L5 or L6 Musicianship & Improvisation
Electronic Music L5	20	L5 or L6 Musicianship & Improvisation
Electronic Music L6	20	L5 Electronic Music
Historical Studies L6: Investigating Music A	10	L5 Historical Studies
Historical Studies L6: Investigating Music B	10	L5 Historical Studies
Innovation & Enterprise L6	10	L5 Music Leadership 1: Learning & Participation
Musician in the Digital Age L5	10	L5 or L6 Musicianship & Improvisation
Sound Recording and Production L6	20	L5 Principal Study (composers) or L5 Introduction to Music Technology

Music Leadership & Education	Credits	Pre-requisite (core modules in red)
Education & Teaching Placement L5	10	L5 Music Leadership 1: Learning & Participation
Instrumental & Vocal Teaching L6	20	L5 Music Leadership 2: Teaching Skills & Techniques
Workshop Leadership L6	20	L5 Music Leadership 1: Learning & Participation or L5 Music Leadership 2: Teaching Skills & Techniques

Performance Science	Credits	Pre-requisite (core modules in red)
Musical Care Throughout the Life Course L5	10	L4 Healthy Musician
Psychology of Performance L5	10	L4 Healthy Musician

Open Project	Credits
Open Project (Year 4 only)	30

The BMus(Hons) offers our students various trajectories to specialise in depending on the strengths and interests.