

Module Specification

Module Title: Contextual Studies 2 (Classical)

Module code:	X_CLS5C005R	NQF level:	Level 5
Credit value:	20 credits	Semester of study:	1 and 2
Module type:	Compulsory	Pre-requisites:	None
Available to:	BA (Hons) Music (Classical)		

Module overview

This team-taught module further enhances students' knowledge with composition, musicology and critical listening skills, taught through a detailed examination of repertoire, its style and effects on the development of classical music. It is delivered via lectures, workshops and seminars, with a total of three hours contact time per week. Study is divided into four themes: Repetition; Virtuosity; Music and theatre; Technology and music. Within these study areas, key works, musicians, compositional techniques, reception and environment are evaluated in detail. For example: Repetition examines the changing role of repetition in music. Links are drawn with aesthetic theories, exploring how developments may be contextualised with regards to cultural changes within the arts in general. Virtuosity explores the way in which advancements in instrument manufacturing and technical ability has allowed composers to push musical parameters to ever further limits. The role of virtuosity in different historical periods is examined and connections are made with aesthetic theories and wider cultural observations. Music and theatre examines factors in the development of opera and other theatrical approaches in the twentieth century such as music theatre and instrumental theatre. Assessment relates directly to the areas outlined above, and tasks include a researched essay with detailed musical analysis, a harmony exam, and a critical listening assignment. Additionally, in the first semester, students choose a non-pathway specific 20-credit project, from a number of options.

Aims

This module continues to develop core musical and academic skills in support of the students' specialist studies and be complementary to the contextual studies optional modules at levels 5 and 6.

The module aims to:

1. Further develop students' specialised skills and knowledge essential to the understanding, appreciation and creation of music.
2. Evaluate and analyse a broad range of musical skills associated with specific creative artists, cultures and repertoire.
3. Understand the importance of social and cultural context when addressing specific creative artists and repertoire (as appropriate to the pathway).

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Integrate theory and practice through detailed analysis and evaluation.
2. Apply significant judgement in a broad range of musical contexts, supported by detailed analytical application of harmonic, melodic and rhythmic concepts.
3. Generate ideas through research and analysis.
4. Analyse key repertoire within its context of style, production, reception and social context.

Learning and teaching methods

Lectures: concepts, principles and theories will be explored in formal lectures. They will be relevant to the particular pathway.

Workshops/seminars: skills to be developed in workshops and seminars along with cognitive and personal skills in

open-ended problem solving exercises by working in small groups supported by members of academic staff.

Contact hours and directed study (over semesters 1 and 2)

Delivery type	Student hours
Indicative hours for learning and teaching activities	60 hours
Indicative hours of directed study	140 hours
Total hours (100hrs per 10 credits)	200 hours

Opportunities for formative feedback

Formative oral feedback will be given in tutorials and workshops.

Assessment Method

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Essay 1	1500 words	25%	1, 3, 4
Critical listening and Harmony exam (online assessment)	2 hours	50%	1, 2
Essay 2	1500 words	25%	1, 3, 4

Due to the nature of the content of this assessment, the content will be revised to remove any questions that might be difficult to invigilate effectively for the use of devices as aids to e.g., pitch/interval recognition.

Re-Assessment Method*

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Essay 1	1500 words	25%	1, 3, 4
Critical listening and Harmony exam (online assessment)	2 hours	50%	1, 2
Essay 2	1500 words	25%	1, 3, 4

Where practicable, assessments may be delivered through the conservatoire's VLE or by video to ensure that overseas students are not disadvantaged or incur unnecessary travel costs. Assessments delivered through the VLE will be timed and invigilated.

[Module resource lists are available via Key Links](#)