

Module Specification

Module Title: Specialist Group Study 2 (Popular)

Module code:	X_POP5C002R	NQF level:	Level 5
Credit value:	30 credits	Semester of study:	1 and 2
Module type:	Compulsory	Pre-requisites:	None
Available to:	BA (Hons) Music (Popular)		

Module overview

In this module, students will engage with group music making in both live performance and recorded contexts. Students will demonstrate thorough musical and analytical understanding of relevant stylistic issues and performance practices in popular music. Students will continually be encouraged to engage with wider listening and asked to demonstrate how this research fits into their developing collaborative approach. They will, at points, work collaboratively as part of a live ensemble unit, with a focus on effective stage presence and placement, communication with an audience, stylistic coherence, industry awareness and project planning. At other points, students will be encouraged to explore ways they can contribute their musical skills to existing recordings and developing musical works. Students will engage with a range of materials, including a mix of original material as well as interpretive and/or literal covers for rehearsals and performances. Students will also critically engage with the issues and processes involved in ensemble performance, demonstrating thorough knowledge and understanding of, and engagement with, materials and concepts introduced across the module.

Aims

Building on the work undertaken in Specialist Group Study 1, this module is designed to further encourage a secure and developed understanding of the techniques and skills of collaborative ensemble performance and composition/arrangement. In this module, stylistic awareness and consideration of wider industrial context will be explored and evidenced through music making. The module will explore different processes of collaborative music making to provide students with a range of industry relevant experiences.

The module aims to:

1. Enable students to further develop a secure understanding of the techniques and skills of ensemble performance, collaboration, music creation and arrangement.
2. Enable students to demonstrate a developed command of skills and stylistic awareness appropriate to the chosen musical idiom.
3. Enable students to practically demonstrate a developed awareness of their work's relevance within society, its industrial context and market potential.

Learning outcomes

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

1. Apply developed skills to the performance/creation of musical materials within live and/or recorded setting.
2. Apply secure technical and musical skills to ensemble performance within live and/or recorded settings.
3. Perform/create a programme of developed original/interpretative material within a group setting.
4. Demonstrate a secure understanding of the industrial and stylistic context in which the collaborative practice operates.

Learning and teaching methods

The module will be delivered through small/medium musical student groups. The groups will be tutor-formed and student-led but will encourage students to develop autonomous musical leadership and rehearsal techniques. Tutors will also support the collaborative process between students to help develop the group's creative process and musical output. A range of instrumental and vocal specialists will work as co-investigators with student groups providing feedback, generative ideas, and contextual input. The rationale for these learning and teaching methods is based in the principles of constructivist pedagogy: students are given a framework and appropriate challenges which they then develop skillsets, interpersonal relations and project planning skills in order to meet. Along this process they are supported by appropriate and supportive staff who are there to offer suggestions, critique, guidance or advice.

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

Delivery type	Student hours
Indicative hours for learning and teaching activities	30 hours
Indicative hours of directed study	270 hours
Total hours (100hrs per 10 credits)	300 hours

Opportunities for formative feedback

Students will receive regular formative assessment through weekly workshops.

Assessment Method

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Performance/Portfolio (3 tracks)	10 – 15 minutes	50%	1, 2
Performance/Portfolio (3 tracks)	10 – 15 minutes	50%	3, 4

Re-Assessment Method*

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Performance/Portfolio (3 tracks)	10 – 15 minutes	50%	1, 2
Performance/Portfolio (3 tracks)	10 – 15 minutes	50%	3, 4

* Portfolio or video assessment allows for students to submit remotely and ensures that none are disadvantaged by location or circumstance.

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