

MA Opera Performance
2 Year Programme

This course overview provides a summary of the MA Opera Performance programme as offered from September 2011. Please note that whilst the information reflects the programme offered to date, it may be subject to amendment and change in future years.

Part 1	Part 2
The Collaborative Performer 20 credits	Performing in Context 40 credits
Performing Recitative 20 credits	Preparing a Role 20 credits
The Singer-Actor 40 credits	
Preparing Opera Scenes 40 credits	

The Collaborative Performer

Credits: 20

Assessment: Written (60%), Continuous Assessment (40%)

The module will introduce and explore techniques relating to fundamental stagecraft and professional etiquette and protocols within the context of collaborative working practices. Students will be encouraged to develop a reflective approach to their own work and the contribution of others in the group throughout a sequence of workshops.

Performing Recitative

Credits: 20

Assessment: Performance (80%), Continuous Assessment (20%)

This module will enhance each student's ability to perform recitative in individual and ensemble settings. This will raise awareness of specific demands associated with recitative as distinct from other styles and develop vocal and linguistic skills which this field necessitates. Recitative preparation will be explored mainly in Italian and English. Contextual knowledge and an awareness of stylistic requirements relating to the selected repertoire will be taught within individual lessons and developed through research and personal practice.

The Singer-Actor

Credits: 40

Assessment: Performance (50%), Continuous Assessment (30%), Reflective Write-up (20%)

Students will perform in a fully-staged opera (or operatic work) performed in public, with orchestra, and under professional direction and production conditions. Students will be allocated a central, supporting or covering role and will receive tuition, guidance, rehearsal and support throughout.

Preparing Opera Scenes

Credits: 40

Assessment: Performance (50%), Continuous Assessment (30%), Written (20%)

After 1:1 lessons, coaching and individual practice the student is given the opportunity to rehearse and perform a in a wide range of scenes repertoire under professional direction and production conditions.

Performing in Context

Credits: 20

Assessment: 3 Performances (15%, 15%, 70%)

This module focuses on a range of advanced performance skills delivered through the study of an operatic role. Personal practice will contribute significantly to the development of the individual together with the motivation to engage in the critical and reflective thinking necessary to bring a substantial role to life. Guidance will be supported by a series of opportunities to shadow the working life of company members within Welsh National Opera (WNO)/Music Theatre Wales and other visiting professional companies.

This may include:

- Observation of WNO Max Projects
- Access to WNO studio rehearsals
- Opportunity to observe and shadow WNO concert party events
- Opportunity to undertake operatic aria/excerpt with chamber orchestra in a semi-staged context
- Opportunity to perform a role in college opera fully staged production

Preparing a Role.

Credits 20

Assessment: Performance (80%) & Publicity Portfolio (20%)

This module provides advanced tuition in the preparation of a major role and guidance in how to prepare and present an audition when seeking an engagement to perform a role for a professional opera company. Career management classes will be delivered by casting staff from professional opera companies together with guidance from visiting professional singers and agents. The department has an active collaboration with the National Opera Studio (NOS) and there will be opportunity to discuss career development and present repertoire to the Director of the NOS during their residency in the RWCMD.