

**ROYAL WELSH COLLEGE
OF MUSIC & DRAMA
COLEG BRENHINOL
CERDD A DRAMA CYMRU**

**BMus (Hons)
Course Overview 2011
Instrumental and Vocal
4 Year Programme**

This course overview provides a detailed summary of the BMus (Hons) programme as offered from September 2011. Please note that whilst the information reflects the programme offered to instrumentalists and singers from this date, it may be subject to amendment and change in future years.

Year 4	Performance Option	Performance or Professional Development Option		Performance or Professional Development Option	
Year 3	Repertoire & Style III	Performing in Ensemble III	Teaching Skills	Professional Development Option	Professional Development Option
Year 2	Repertoire & Style II	Performing in Ensemble II	Professional Development Option	Harmony & Aural II	Musical Contexts II
Year 1	Repertoire & Style I	Performing in Ensemble I	Enhancing Performance Project	Harmony & Aural I	Musical Contexts I

YEAR ONE 120 credits

Repertoire & Style I

Core module

40 credits

Assessment: Two performance (100%) plus technical assessment

This module will give you an appropriate knowledge of style, command of technique and ability to communicate through performance. This will be taught within 1:1 lessons and broadened through repertoire and style classes, performance classes and masterclasses. These lessons and classes will also show you how to use your time in the practice room to maximum effect. Repertoire and style classes include stylistic, contextual and practical guidance in the performance of a designated genre or selection of repertoire. Performance classes give you experience in communication through performance, while masterclasses by visiting leading performers provide an overall musical and professional context.

Performing in Ensemble I

Core module

20 credits

Assessment: Two performances (2 x 50%)

On this module, you will develop skills relating to the effective preparation and performance of ensemble repertoire. For instrumentalists, this will take place within the context of chamber music or small ensemble performance. Orchestral and band instrumentalists will also be required to complete an orchestra or band excerpts assessment.

Musical Contexts I

Core module

20 credits

Assessment: Two portfolios (20 x 50%)

You will develop an awareness of the diversity inherent within musicological enquiry, plus the skills to pursue the study of musical works in an informed manner. The programme is subdivided into four segments and includes a consideration of music performance, history, analysis and case studies.

Harmony & Aural I

Core module

20 credits

Assessment: Portfolio of harmony exercises (50%) and listening tests (50%)

The module will be delivered through a combination of workshop classes in harmony and aural training. Through written exercises, analyses and performances, harmony workshops will develop your abilities in, and understanding of, a range of diatonic and simple chromatic chords and progressions. Exercises in a variety of styles will be set (these may include pastiche studies), supported by studies in the nature of melodic style and basic instrumentation. Aural workshops will incorporate a mixture of different types of tuition, including guidance in methods to recognise rhythms, tonic centrality and the degrees of the scale, intervals, triads and melodies.

Enhancing Performance Project

Core module

20 credits

Assessment: Essay (50%) and viva voce (50%)

This module teaches you to make the most of your educational and professional potential. You will be introduced to a wide range of issues relating to physical and psychological health, along with technological and aesthetic matters fundamental to success as a performer or creative musician. Areas covered will include strategies for effective practice, physical fitness for the musician, Alexander Technique, applications of technology, the physicality of performance, aspects of style and interpretation, and nutrition for the musician. After a series of awareness-raising presentations and workshops, you will be encouraged to establish and maintain effective personal practise regimes.

YEAR TWO 120 credits

You will study one core module worth 40 credits, three core modules each worth 20 credits, plus one optional 20-credit module.

Repertoire & Style II

Core module

40 credits

Assessment: Two performances (100%) plus technical assessment

You will continue advanced work in instrumental technique and style principally through 1:1 lessons, broadened through repertoire and style, performance classes and masterclasses. Repertoire and style classes will focus on the provision of context for designated areas of repertoire. Performance classes will be concerned with a variety of issues relating to the preparation and presentation of performances, while masterclasses will be presented by leading visiting professionals and will serve to provide an overall musical and professional context.

Performing in Ensemble II

Core module

20 credits

Assessment: Two performances (2 x 50%)

You will develop advanced skills relating to the effective preparation and performance of ensemble repertoire. For instrumentalists, this will take place within the context of chamber music or small ensemble performance. Orchestral and band instrumentalists will also be required to complete an orchestra/or band excerpts assessment.

Harmony & Aural II

Core module

20 credits

Assessment: Portfolio (100%)

The module will be delivered through a combination of workshop classes in harmony and aural training. Through written exercises, analyses and performances, harmony workshops develop your abilities in, and understanding of, a range of advanced diatonic and chromatic chords and progressions. Exercises in a variety of styles will be set (these may include pastiche studies), supported by studies in the nature of melodic style and advanced instrumentation. Aural workshops will incorporate a mixture of different types of tuition, including guidance in

methods to recognise rhythms, tonic centricity and modulation, complex intervals, triads and melodies (tonal and atonal).

Musical Contexts II

Core module

20 credits

Assessment: Portfolio (100%)

You will develop an advanced awareness of the diversity inherent within musicological enquiry, and the skills to pursue an informed study of music. It will be divided into two parts: a detailed study of a selected epoch in the history of music, and a more instrument or departmentally-focused study of a key area of repertoire or a topic of particular significance.

You will take one Professional Development Option in year two and two in year three. There are a wide range of modules available to select from typically including:

a) Alexander Technique

Optional module

20 credits

Assessment: Essay (50%) and portfolio (50%)

The module combines lectures designed to provide a general theoretical background to the practice of the Alexander Technique with practical workshops in applications of the technique for musicianship.

b) Biology for Musicians

Optional module

20 credits

Assessment: Essay (50%) and portfolio (50%)

A series of lectures looking at the bioscience of performance and discussing issues relevant to performers, including breathing, posture, injury prevention, stress management, hearing and processing musical sound.

c) Brass Bandsmanship

Optional module

20 credits

Assessment: Practical assessment (50%) and portfolio (50%)

Classes will begin with a series of lectures outlining the conventions of writing for the instrumental forces of a British Brass Band (including the relationship of printed scores and parts to concert pitch and other issues relating to transposition). Following this, you will explore the principles of arranging effectively for the ensemble through original work and an analysis of key works from the repertoire. Techniques of adjudication will be considered in relation to the current brass band scene, including the application of criteria.

d) Concert Management

Optional module

20 credits

Assessment: Portfolio (50%) and reflective journal (50%)

A series of classes to discuss the issues involved in presenting their own concert, including:

- Dealing with the task of setting up the concert
- Deciding on the programme
- Developing a marketing strategy and providing publicity material
- Dealing with front of house issues

Students will work in groups to present a concert of their own devising, taking care of all organisational aspects.

e) Music for Theatre

Optional module

20 credits

Assessment: Practical assessment (50%) and portfolio (50%)

This module gives you the opportunity to study the art of devising music for new theatre productions. It will include the analysis of script to understand content, form and dramatic pulse, leading to the generation of a coherent musical score.

Practical exercises will include the selection and placing of existing music, as well as original composition to interpret and enhance text drawn from a range of sources. Presentation of the work will deal with extracts from four works and take the form of rehearsed readings.

f) Music Therapy (Touch Trust)

Optional module

20 credits

Assessment: Portfolio (60%) and practical assessment (40%)

Early sessions will consider basic elements of therapeutic work through practical exercises and discussion of approaches and video material. In the following weeks, you will spend time working in groups at the Touch Trust in the Wales Millennium Centre, participating in and leading parts of music workshops.

g) Composing & Arranging

Optional module

20 credits

Assessment: Portfolio (75%) and seminar presentation (25%)

Workshops will include an investigation of the basic components of compositional technique through discussion of general principles and illustrations from existing works. Topics will include extended and post-tonal composition, response to text, recent developments in composition and notation, works for solo instruments, and the interaction of instruments in ensembles. You will be encouraged to develop a critical approach by discussing your own work. A broader consideration of the aesthetic implications of compositional choices will grow from these initial explorations of technical matters.

h) Outreach Studies

Optional modules

20 credits

Assessment: Practical assessment (60%) and portfolio (40%)

Working with college staff and partner organisations (including St David's Hall, WNO and BBCNOW), you will be involved in the delivery of workshops aimed at promoting live classical music to school children. Introductory sessions will be followed by participation projects facilitated by professional amateurs and delivered in schools, with performance outcomes.

i) Workshop Leader

Optional module

20 credits

Assessment: Practical assessment (50%) and portfolio (50%)

This module will give you practical support and expertise in devising, promoting and leading music workshops. Training sessions will consider the legal and regulatory frameworks, but focus principally on the selection and development of material appropriate to selected settings. During practical sessions, you will design and lead your own workshops in a variety of community and/or outreach settings.

j) Arts Management

Optional module

20 credits

Assessment: Portfolio (100%)

During workshops and presentations, you will focus on key areas, including state funding of the arts, marketing strategies and policies, education and community development, fundraising and cultural strategy, and programme and business planning. You will then prepare of a portfolio of work based around an arts project you have devised.

k) Performance Planning

Optional module

20 credits

Assessment: Portfolio (100%)

This module will consider a wide variety of issues and practical considerations, including ensemble organisation, the production of promotional material, preparation of programme material, rehearsal skills, and tour planning and dealing with promoters.

l) Music & Words

Optional module

20 credits

Assessment: Portfolio (100%)

This module will provide an overview of writing styles for different purposes and present strategies for undertaking selected writing tasks, such as programme notes. Through focusing on diverse written materials from critical and aesthetical perspectives, you will develop skills to articulate ideas with clarity and concision, to respond to a range of sources and to articulate an assortment of musicological and performance-related issues within written contexts.

YEAR THREE 120 credits

You will study one core module worth 40 credits, two core modules each worth 20 credits, plus two optional professional development modules worth 20 credits each (see above).

Repertoire & Style III

Core module

40 credits

Assessment: Two performances (100%) plus technical assessment

You will continue advanced work in instrumental technique and style principally through 1:1 lessons, broadened through repertoire and style, performance classes and masterclasses. Repertoire and style classes will focus on the provision of context for designated areas of repertoire. Performance classes will be concerned with a variety of issues relating to the preparation and presentation of performances, while masterclasses will be presented by leading visiting professionals and will serve to provide an overall musical and professional context.

Performing in Ensemble III

Core module

20 credits

Assessment: Two performances (2 x 50%)

Following on from the two previous years, this module seeks to consolidate advanced skills relating to the effective preparation and performance of ensemble repertoire. For instrumentalists, this will take place within the context of chamber music or small ensemble performance. Orchestral and band instrumentalists will also be required to complete an orchestra and/or band excerpts assessment.

Teaching Skills

Core module

20 credits

Assessment: Practical assessment (60%) and portfolio (40%)

You will learn about the theory of learning and develop a broad range of skills for teaching, such as selecting teaching material, structuring lessons, communication skills and the teacher/pupil relationship. Practical teaching experience such as 1:1 teaching and outreach work are embedded into the module.

YEAR FOUR 120 credits

You will select a pathway incorporating a balance of performance and professional development modules. Performance can account for two thirds of your assessment in this year.

PERFORMANCE OPTIONS:

The Solo Recitalist

20 credits or 40 credits

Assessment: One extended performance (100%) or two shorter performances (100%)

1:1 lessons focus on the development of a fully-formed instrumental technique and stylistic individuality. Performance classes and department projects encourage imaginative programming and develop presentation and communication skills to a high level.

The Ensemble Performer

20 credits Assessment: One performances (100%)
or 40 credits Assessment: Two performances (100%)

1:1 lessons focus on the development of a fully-formed instrumental technique and stylistic individuality. Ensemble classes, coached rehearsals and department projects encourage collaborative programming and performance, and

demand a high level of communication and interaction. Projects may include other art forms such as dance and animation.

Performing Contemporary Music

20 credits Assessment: One performances (100%)
or 40 credits Assessment: Two performances (100%)

1:1 lessons offered by a team of tutors focus on the development of a fully-formed instrumental technique, stylistic individuality and a knowledge of contemporary repertoire, techniques and processes. Ensemble classes, coached rehearsals and department projects (including Outreach and Touring) encourage collaborative programming and performance, and demand a high level of communication and interaction. Projects may include other art forms such as dance and animation.

The Lecture-Recitalist

20 credits or 40 credits
Assessment: Lecture-Recital (60%) and reflective account of performance (40%)

You will be guided in your choice of topic and related repertoire, after which you will work independently in devising your presentation, which should use appropriate technological support. A final rehearsal will be scheduled, after which feedback will be available from a member of the module team. The presentation itself will be video recorded, so you can critique the effectiveness of your work.

The Orchestral Musician

20 credits
Assessment: Performance (75%) and rehearsal assessment (25%)

You are provided with a featured orchestral role, reflecting professional standards. 1:1 lessons are complemented by chamber or symphony orchestra rehearsals and performances.

The Band Musician

20 credits
Assessment: Performance (100%)

You are provided with a featured band role, reflecting professional standards. 1:1 lessons are complemented by chamber or symphony orchestra rehearsals and performances.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS:

Vocational Project

20 credits or 40 credits
Assessment: Presentation (60%) and written assignment (40%)

Following a meeting with the module leader and tutor(s), each student will be assigned to a work placement. Students will then be proactive in negotiating with the placement provider and ensuring a smooth interface between the placement schedule and other college commitments. The precise nature of the placement, its requirements, assessment procedures and specific learning outcomes will be established in advance. The length of the placement and its requirements will also vary according to the designated credit weighting. Typically a 40-credit involves ten full working days (or equivalent). The placement will normally take place within a single term and will be monitored by a designated Placement Tutor.

Research Project

20 credits Assessment: Extended Essay (100%)
or 40 credits Assessment: Dissertation (100%)

This dissertation module provides an opportunity to examine more intensively a subject previously addressed or suggested within the programme, or to apply skills, knowledge and approaches developed to a less familiar area. This is a self-directed piece of work but support will be provided through seminars and tutorial assistance.

Portfolio of Compositions

20 or 40 credits
Assessment: Portfolio (80%) and written critique (20%)

On this module, you will further develop your composition skills and produce a portfolio of original works with accompanying recordings. Typically, the portfolio will comprise of works ranging in size and for diverse forces. You

will also produce a written critique of your creative processes and outcomes.

Portfolio of Arrangements

20 credits or 40 credits

Assessment: Portfolio (80%) and written critique (20%)

This module gives you an opportunity to develop your skills in arranging and produce a portfolio of original works with accompanying recordings. Typically, the portfolio will comprise work ranging in size and for diverse forces. You will also produce a written critique of your creative processes and outcomes.

Performing on Period Instrument

20 credits

Assessment: One extended performance (100%) or two shorter performances (100%)

1:1 lessons focus on the development of a fully-formed instrumental technique and stylistic individuality.

Performance classes and department projects encourage imaginative programming and develop presentation and communication skills to a high level.