

Module Specification

Module Title: Contextual Studies 1 (Classical)

Module code:	X_CLS4C005R	NQF level:	Level 4
Credit value:	30 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 equips students with composition, musicology and critical listening skills, taught through a detailed examination of repertoire, its style and effects on the development of classical music and is delivered via lectures, workshops and seminars. Study is divided into four themes: Different voices; Rhythmic language and devices; Melodic development; Harmonic language and function. Within these study areas, key works, musicians, compositional techniques, reception and environment are evaluated in detail. For example: Different voices examines the styles of singing that are utilised in early music, lieder, romantic opera through to twentieth century developments. Links are drawn with aesthetic theories, exploring how these historical styles may be contextualised today. Rhythmic language and devices explores the way in which rhythm has changed in both style and function from early music through to the present day. Intercultural links are studied (e.g. Messiaen's use of Indian rhythm, the influence of African rhythmic devices on Steve Reich's music). Melody and harmony are studied in a similar way, using examples from across historical periods to examine the nature of artistic developments, the influences on these developments and the subsequent consequences, musically and culturally. Assessment relates directly to the areas outlined above, including tasks in musical analysis/theory, critical listening and an online research project.

Aims

This module forms part of the Contextual Studies strand of the programme and addresses core musical and academic skills that support the students' specialist study with particular reference to their pathway.

The module aims to:

1. Equip students with the fundamental skills and knowledge essential to the understanding, appreciation and creation of music.
2. Explore, evaluate and apply the core musical skills (associated with relevant repertoire if appropriate).
3. Develop an understanding of repertoire and where appropriate, explore its social and cultural context.

Learning outcomes

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

1. Integrate theory and practice.
2. Identify and evaluate the structural, cultural and social aspects of key repertoire.
3. Apply and understanding of harmonic and rhythmic conventions.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of repertoire through its social and cultural context, production and reception.

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 are 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	240 hours
Total hours (100hrs per 10 credits)	300 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, 2, 4
Critical listening and Harmony exam (*in-person assessment)	2 hours	50%	1,3
Essay 2	1500 words	25%	1, 2, 4

*Due to the nature of the content of this assessment, online-assessment is not possible unless in exception circumstances (e.g. social restrictions). In this case, 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, 2, 4
Critical listening and Harmony Exam (*online assessment)	2 hours	50%	1,3
Essay 2	1500 words	25%	1, 2, 4

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