



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD008388	Version: 3 Date Amended: 22/Jan/2025
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1. Module Title
Dots, Lines and Waves - Songwriting Techniques

2a. Module Leader
Sven-Amin Lembke

2b. School
Cambridge School of the Creative Industries

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
4

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BA (Hons) Music Performance		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

In this practical module you'll learn about music notation and music vocabulary, and take part in aural training that will help your understanding of written notation. All these skills will be combined in the module, which is why we've called it 'Dots' (notation systems), 'Lines' (text and staves) and 'Waves' (sound waves and ear training). Together, we'll look at specific music audio examples to support your understanding of staff, guitar and drum notation. You'll take part in smaller group work alongside the lectures and seminars in which you'll take part in theory-based problem-solving.

Your songwriting skills will be developed through composition assignments, which are workshopped using recorded audio demonstration and practical performance. Focusing on the production of creative work in audio format accompanied by clear lead sheets, visual scores and reflective commentaries, you'll have the chance to consolidate your current levels of musicianship, increase your own critical awareness of your creative practice, and develop new songwriting skills in a variety of music styles. You'll be encouraged to try out new techniques and expand your stylistic range in your own compositions, which you'll regularly workshop in all sessions. You'll also develop your critical skills, as well as your teamwork skills, giving you a variety of techniques and musical knowledge, as well as the confidence to try out new ideas in a broad range of styles.

6b. Outline Content

- Knowledge of common musical terms, signs and symbols
- Knowledge of a variety of notation systems
- Introduction to techniques for analysing a broad spectrum of music styles both in text and in notation
- Ability to critique terminology and evaluate its usefulness in the contexts of a variety of music forms
- Ear training and transcription skills
- Develop an understanding of melody, harmony, rhythm and duration, timbre and other expressive parameters
- Ability to write about music using notation, diagrams and technical musical language as appropriate to different music genres and styles
- Songwriting exercises on aspects of metre, tempo, timbre and instrumentation, harmony (style-related chord progressions), structure and texture, rhythm, melodic contour and embellishment.
- Live performance of original material for formative feedback before final submission of audio recordings, scores and commentaries
- Production of audio recordings, scores and commentaries

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Music rehearsal/performance spaces, recording studios, music software

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a knowledge base of the key components through which music is created, realised and performed including specific musical terms and notation
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a knowledge base of the key components through which music is created and realised, and identify the different elements of songwriting, including methods of notation, across a range of styles
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Analyse, critically evaluate and interpret composition practices, and the structure, form, content and of music artefacts
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate the ability to convey personal expression and imagination in practical work employing appropriate technical and interpretive means

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2025/6	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	0	N/A	N/A
Other teacher managed learning	48	1-4	4 hours per week for 12 weeks
Student managed learning	252	1-4	Individual study, research and creative work. Group rehearsals
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Portfolio of compositions/songs (3,000 words equivalent)

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011	Coursework	1-4	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Portfolio of compositions/songs (3,000 words equivalent)

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]