

Module code: MOD008397	Version: 1 Date Amended: 27/Jul/2021
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1. Module Title
Composition and Orchestration

2a. Module Leader
Paul Rhys

2b. School
Cambridge School of the Creative Industries

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

3a. Level
5

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, BA (Hons) Music Production, BA (Hons) Music and Sound Production		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

On this practical module, you'll cover selected issues of composition and orchestration in depth. By the end, you'll have produced a portfolio comprising original compositions of your own, as well as arrangements of existing works for orchestra.

You'll be introduced to the concepts and techniques of a wide range of compositional styles, with projects that might include exercises in contrapuntal writing, harmonisation techniques, vocal setting, arranging for small instrumental groups, or combining electronic and acoustic resources. You'll develop the ability to convey personal expression and imagination in practical work, employing appropriate technical and interpretive means, and perform a variety of practical and creative roles while critically reflecting on the processes involved in undertaking compositional practice. You'll attend individual and group tutorials, to help you maintain satisfactory progress.

You'll also develop your skills in instrumentation and scoring, learning to read orchestral scores, and demonstrating your understanding through practical work by creating proficient orchestrations presented to a professional standard. The orchestral scores you study – from Mozart to Stravinsky – will demonstrate the challenges and opportunities that composers face when writing for this medium. You'll learn about the anatomy of orchestral instruments and instrumental colour, and how to translate from the pianistic idiom to the orchestral. By the end of the module, you'll be able to create stylish orchestrations, preparing you for professional work in the film and game industries and many other settings.

6b. Outline Content

- A series of seminars throughout the course introduces students to a variety of material relevant to the composition of music
- Individual and group tutorials provide opportunities for students to investigate and revise material prior to performance in a workshop environment
- Regular workshops encourage the development of skills needed for the rehearsal and performance of newly composed music
- Knowledge of the conventions of western notation
- A broad knowledge of the orchestral repertoire
- An understanding of the roles and capabilities of different instruments
- Analysis of orchestral scores
- Presentation skills

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Music studios with suitable hardware and 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 knowledge and awareness of the key components through which music is created, realised and received, with a particular appreciation of the role played by different musical elements in the composition of music of a number of styles and traditions.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate knowledge of the creative affordances of instruments and/or technologies in the composition and performance of music.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Understand how to write idiomatically for specific instruments and instrument combinations.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Expand musical textures creatively for a variety of orchestral forces.
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate the ability to convey personal expression and imagination in practical work employing appropriate technical and interpretive means.
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Perform a variety of practical and creative roles, including lead roles in small ensembles, and critically reflect upon the processes involved in undertaking professional, ethical and sustainable musical practice.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers

Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	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	1-6	Seminar 2 hr x 24 weeks
Student managed learning	252	1-6	Research, preparation, rehearsal
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-6	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Portfolio 1: Original compositions, and orchestrations of existing musical works (equivalent to 3,000 words).					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-6	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Portfolio 2: Original compositions, and orchestrations of existing musical works (equivalent to 3,000 words).					

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]
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