

Music Technology A Level

Course Description:

Music technology plays a key role in music across the world. This qualification is designed to open up a range of exciting and useful tasks, and to encourage you to learn about the application of technologies to the composition and production of music. Students, including those who do not play a traditional instrument, are encouraged to explore their musicality and create original materials using technology. This course is a balance of practical tasks, and is complemented with areas of study that help you develop skills in the analysis of musical production styles, alongside the techniques needed to produce contemporary music.

Qualifications required:

In addition to minimum two-year course entry requirements, you should have an interest in music technology and a good knowledge of music, preferably to GCSE standard. This will give you the knowledge required for the types of music covered in the course. You will be required to read music to a competent level and should be willing to learn if not already able to do so.

Aims of the Course:

- Understand the principles of sound and audio technology and how they are used in creative and professional practice
- Understand a wide range of recording and production techniques and how they are used in practice for both corrective and creative purposes
- Develop recording skills to demonstrate an understanding of sound and its capture
- Develop the skills to create and manipulate sound in imaginative and creative ways
- Develop skills in critical and analytical listening to evaluate the use of sound and audio technology in students' own and others' work
- Develop an understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of the use of technology in the creation, performance and production of music
- Prepare students for further academic or vocational study of music technology and related creative areas.

Future Prospects:

There are many important opportunities in higher education, and many career possibilities for those proficient in handling music technology built around the musical performing arts and music production. These include work in sound engineering and live sound reinforcement, also work in composition and production in contemporary media situations.

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Course Features:

Students will learn and use a variety of music technology skills in order to complete the course. MIDI sequencing and multi-track recording as well as arranging skills are all key components assessed through the externally assessed practical work carried out.

In addition students will learn from 3 areas of study;

- Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
- Principles of sound and audio technology
- The development of recording and production technology

Students will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge, and the principles of music technology through a series of listening, analysing and production examinations.

Units:

Component 1: Recording

Externally assessed

20% of the qualification

One recording, chosen from a list of 10 songs

Component 2: Composition

Externally assessed

20% of the qualification

One technology-based composition based on of 3 set briefs.

Component 3: Listening & Analysing

Written examination: 1 hour 30 min

25% of the qualification

Knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles, in the context of a series of unfamiliar commercial recordings.

Component 4: Producing & Analysing

Written/practical examination: 2 hour 15 min

35% of the qualification

Knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques, to be applied to unfamiliar materials.