

Course Aim and Title	MA Songwriting
Intermediate Awards Available	PGCert Songwriting PGDip Songwriting
Teaching Institution(s)	Institute of Contemporary Music Performance
Alternative Teaching Institutions (for local arrangements see final section of this specification)	N/A
UEL Academic School	Arts & Digital Industries
UCAS Code	N/A
Professional Body Accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	Subject Benchmark Statement for Framework for Music Higher Education Qualifications for HE (2014) Master's Degree Characteristics (2020)
Additional Versions of this Course	N/A
Date Specification Last Updated	February 2021

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Develop and nurture your advanced songwriting practice;
- Develop your ability to voice creative identity within songcraft;
- Equip you with skills for self-directed exploratory research (in songwriting);
- Identify and engage with professional application of creative practice.
- Research and develop an enterprising approach to established and progressive songwriting.

What you will learn:

Knowledge (K)

On completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of theoretical and technical concepts in line with creative intention for professional songwriting
2. Critically evaluate technical aspects of lyrical construction and their impact on the listener experience
3. Understand the importance of developing and maintaining a professional creative process for songwriting
4. Use research methodologies to develop and evaluate ideas and processes within a songwriting project
5. Engage in practice as research, demonstrating originality in the application of knowledge suitable for a repertoire research project

Thinking Skills (T)

On completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking and awareness with regards to songcraft in a plurality of contexts
2. Evaluate and apply a range of methodologies to the lyric writing process
3. Explore, analyse, critique and justify their own creative purposes, processes and methodology
4. Identify and utilise relevant literature (and/or other contextual resources) to inform application and dissemination of songwriting practice
5. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of their selected songwriting process/es and

techniques as applied to a repertoire research project

6. Critically evaluate current research, advanced scholarship and/or professional practice within chosen discipline, and related artistic work in the same field of research

Subject-based practical skills (S)

On completion of this course you will be able to

1. Create, realise and express musical concepts in line with creative intent in new song material
2. Develop and apply songcraft skills in relation to digital audio production and sonic identity
3. Generate, redraft and edit original song lyrics in line with stated creative intentions
4. Synthesise technical knowledge and apply this to your lyric writing practice
5. Create and develop new song content using a variety of creative stimuli and processes, including collaboration
6. Create, realise and express original artistic concepts within song
7. Demonstrate a critical awareness of context, audience and song material in professional context/s
8. Create new song repertoire at professional level, expressing original concepts and reflecting a fully developed creative identity

Skills for life and work (general skills) (L)

On completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Reflect on and evaluate your journey of creative development
2. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the role of the songwriter in contemporary society, through the study of specific professional working environments and context/s
3. Research, design and present a proposal for the distribution of the song project demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of project's purpose and intended audience
4. Recognise the interrelationship between theory and practice and apply such knowledge to underpin and strengthen artistic development

Learning and Teaching

Knowledge is developed through

- Lectures
- Workshops
- Seminars / Feedback Sessions
- Individual tutorials
- Song demonstrations.

Thinking skills are developed through

- Reading
- Critical analysis and evaluation
- Research
- Reflective critique.

Practical skills are developed through

- Song demonstrations
- Research
- Presentations.

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through:

- Songwriting

- Presentations
- Writing
- Research
- Attending and performing at events
- Networking and masterclasses.

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- Song demonstrations
- Seminar presentations;
- Songwriting demonstrations.

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Coursework
- Song demonstrations
- Seminar presentations;
- Research

Practical skills are assessed by

- Song demonstrations
- Oral and written presentations;

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by
Song demonstrations;

- Research
- Oral and written presentations.

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Course Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the course.

Work or Study Placements

As a student at the ICMP you will be regularly offered professional practice opportunities through our Careers & Industry Hub. This typically includes auditioning for tours, gigs or other musical projects.

Course Structure

All courses are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

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|---|---|
| 3 | Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree course. |
| 4 | Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree course. |
| 5 | Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree course. |

- 6 Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
 7 Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree.

Courses are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The module structure of this course:

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Weighting	Core/Option	Available by Distance Learning? Y/N
7	PA7019	Creative Purpose and Process in Songwriting	30	Core	N
7	PA7024	Songcraft: Musical & Sonic Imagination	30	Core	N
7	PA7020	Established & Progressive Songwriting Industries	30	Core	N
7	PA7023	Songcraft: Lyric Architecture	30	Core	N
7	PA7022	Research and Repertoire Project	60	Core	N

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, in order to create the best learning experience.

Additional detail about the course module structure:

A core module for a course is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional module for a course is a module selected from a range of modules available on the course.

The overall credit-rating of this course is 180 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Course Specific Regulations

N/A

Typical Duration

The expected duration of this course is 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time.

A student cannot normally continue study on a course after 4 years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply and extenuation has been granted. The limit for completion of a course in part time mode is 7 years from first enrolment.

Further Information

More information about this course is available from:

- icmp.ac.uk
- ICMP Dashboard: <http://home.icmp.ac.uk/>
- The course handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)
- School web pages

All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

Additional Costs:

Essential Equipment

- Chosen instrument for songwriting (guitar, piano, keyboard, DAW, other)
- Device with internet connection

Desirable Equipment

- Laptop with preferred DAW

Alternative Locations of Delivery

This course is also taught by ICMP and awarded by the University of East London

This course does not have professional body accreditation although students are encouraged to make individual applications for accredited status.