The Institute
of Contemporary
Music Performance

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

2022-23

Programme Title	BA (Hons) Songwriting
Intermediate Awards Available	CertHE, DipHE, Ordinary Degree
UCAS Code	W102
Professional Body Accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	Subject Benchmark Statement for Music, 2019 Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, 2014
Specification Last Updated	Date: February 2021
	Name: Shane Beales

Programme Aims

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Synthesise your skills, knowledge and command of songcraft
- Develop and hone your creative instincts to conceive and courageously pursue creative possibilities;
- Develop your collaborative skills, creative resilience and reflexive practice, so that you are equipped for a broad range of professional and cultural contexts;
- Develop your business and enterprise skills and attributes so that you are equipped to work within and bring innovation to a range of professional contexts;
- To develop your transferable, analytical, research, and creative commentary skills to a level sufficient to engage in songwriting critique, commentary, and future study.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge

1. The critical evaluation of contemporary songwriting, performance and production techniques and approaches within a range of cultural and stylistic contexts;
2. The development of skills, qualities and behaviours associated with enterprising songwriting practice within contemporary music industries;
3. The evaluation and analysis of business practices within contemporary music industries.

Thinking skills

4. An advanced level of communication, imagination and creativity;
5. An understanding of the wide-ranging professional applications of songwriting within music (and associated) industries;
6. The ability to construct a reasoned, evaluative argument with an independent point of view.

Subject Specific Practical Skills

7. Established techniques to write, redraft and refine professionally-crafted song material;
8. The use of digital audio workstations as a compositional and production tool;
9. A practical understanding of music theory as a tool for writing songs;
10. The development of business practices including marketing, promotion and writing business plans.

Skills for life and work (general skills)

11. Communication and collaboration within creative teams;
12. Evaluation and organisation of your own learning;
13. Work independently, managing your own time, motivating yourself and managing your own schedule.

Learning and Teaching

Knowledge is developed through:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Workshops

Thinking skills are developed through:

- Lectures
- Tutorials
- Group workshops

Practical skills are developed through:

- Skills workshops
- Lectures
- Seminars

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

- Project based work supported by tutorials / workshops
- Mentorship scheme

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- Essays
- Recorded tracks
- Chord and lyric charts
- Presentations
- A technical exercise

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Essays
- Project proposal
- Presentations
- A business pitch

Practical skills are assessed by

- Recorded tracks
- Live performance of original material
- A technical exercise

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

- Showcase / event / project organisation
- Recorded tracks
- A business plan

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

Programme Structure

All programmes are credit-rated to indicate the amount and level of study required.
One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time, which includes all components of the programme (e.g. lecture, seminar and independent study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

3 Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and 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.

Programmes are made up of modules that are each credit-weighted.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Weighting	Core/Option	Available by Distance Learning? Y/N
4	BASW4001	Creative Songwriting II: Establishing Songcraft	20	Core	N
4	BASW4002	Creative Songwriting: Exploring Songcraft	20	Core	N
4	BASW4003	Fundamentals for Writer-Producers	20	Core	N
4	BASW4004	Music Business for Songwriters	20	Core	N
4	BASW4005	Theory and Musicianship for Songwriters	20	Core	N
4	BASW4006	Fundamentals for Writer-Performers	20	Core	N
5	PA5067	Applied Songwriting: Extending Songcraft	20	Core	N
5	PA5066	Applied Songwriting II: Embedding Songcraft	20	Core	N
5	PA5083	Songwriting and Communities	20	Core	N

5	PA5074	Creative Performance Project	20	Core	N
5	PA5072	Contemporary Practice for Writer-Producers	20	Core	N
5	PA5079	Marketing Strategies for Songwriters	20	Core	N
6	PA6068	Advanced Songwriting: Creative Identity & Repertoire	40	Core	N
6	PA6088	Professional Practice	40	Core	N
6	PA6083	The Enterprising Songwriter	20	Core	N
6	PA6084	The Enterprising Songwriter II	20	Core	N

For undergraduate programmes only, please remove if not applicable
The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits. If this credit is not obtained, an intermediate award may be awarded; the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit accumulated.

Typical Duration of Programme

The expected duration of this course is 3 years full-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.

Additional Costs

The following equipment is recommended to enable students to fully engage with their songwriting studies:

- Device with internet connection

- Computer with DAW software & headphones/suitable monitors
- Audio interface, microphone & necessary cables
- Midi Keyboard/input device
- Musical instrument to compose with

Further Information

Please consult:

- ICMP web site
- Programme Handbook