

Course Specification

Basic Course Information		
1	Awarding Institution	Nottingham Trent University
2	Faculty/Campus	Creative Arts Clarendon Campus
3	Final Award	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Music and Creative Music Technology
	Course Title	BA (Hons) Music and Creative Music Technology
	Modes of Study	Full-time; Part-time
4	Normal Duration	Full-time 1 year; Part-time 2 years
5	UCAS code	Institution Code: N30 Course Code: W390 Short form of course: BA/MCMT Campus Code: A

6 Overview and general educational aims of the course

The BA (Hons) Music and Creative Music Technology course has been developed to meet the needs of students who have already gained a Foundation Degree, HND or similar qualification and wish to continue their Higher Education studies to Degree level.

The course acknowledges the positive and profound effect of technology and associated practices upon music repertoires. The exploration and development of your ideas through the interaction of traditional and contemporary music making models is key to this understanding.

BA (Hons) Music and Creative Music Technology provides a critical environment where musicians are able to develop, inform and evaluate (their) professional practice within this interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, international and multicultural industry.

The course is student centered and introduces and develops practical skills, theoretical knowledge, modes of thought and academic practice in an investigation of the musician as creator and performer within the Music and Creative Music Technology framework.

Musicians operate within specific social, economic and technological environments; the course offers an andragogical model where you can liaise and negotiate with employers, developing an ability to make informed stylistic, emotional and cultural choices suitable for the brief.

BA (Hons) Music and Creative Music Technology takes account of the multiplicity of activities common within the music and creative industries; this is reflected in the range of group and individual activities with increased autonomy as the course progresses.

At the end of the course you will have acquired the professional knowledge and skills to equip them for a range of employment in the music industry.

The BA (Hons) Music and Creative Music Technology has been designed to meet the following aims:

Professional Practice

To enable you through the development of your own distinctive vision and practice, to contribute to the broad cultural and economic development of the creative industries within the regional, national and international communities through the production of work that meets recognisably professional standards on a local, national and international level.

Contextual Studies

To equip you with appropriate analytical, critical and technical skills in order to articulate and make informed judgements about how your own practice and that of others contributes to particular debates in the creative industries.

Vocationally Orientated Work

To provide you with insights into the ways in which specific vocational skills develop versatility and independence within individual performance practice. To develop knowledge of existing and emerging repertoires, and through the creation and performance of distinctive pieces, to better understand the needs and requirements of industry.

Student Environment

To provide a creative, stimulating and multifaceted environment that acknowledges value in the diversity of music making, performance practices and background experience.

The environment aims to help you to fulfil your own unique potential and through access and knowledge of Music and Creative Music Technology practice become committed, flexible and pro-active practitioners.

Skills

To foster self-directed and independent learning and provide you with insights into the ways in which Music and Creative Music Technology practice promotes versatility and independence with discipline-specific and transferable skills.

To develop your abilities to work collaboratively and co-operatively in a broader professional framework.

The objectives of the BA (Hons) Music and Creative Music Technology course are that you will:

Professional Practice

Achieve Music and Creative Music Technology products of a professional standard based on acquired skills and awareness of traditional and contemporary models that demonstrate innovation, imagination and sustained development of materials and technical resources.

Contextual Studies

Understand, articulate and debate how a range of contexts may shape and inform the production and interpretation of Music and Creative Music Technology products.

Be able to communicate research in a variety of formats, to include oral and written conclusions.

Depth of Enquiry

Develop a high level of intellectual rigour and be able to make connections between theory and practice within individual professional practice and in broader cultural contexts.

Apply aural perception and technical accuracy to individual content and expression.

Learning and Teaching

Develop a commitment to student centred learning in such a way that you are able to work both independently and in groups towards specific goals, and to evaluate your work in a critical, reflective and considered way.

Progression

Attain a high level of technical and artistic achievement that can lead to further study and careers in the Creative Industries, Information and Communication Technology and Music Education.

Transferable Skills

Develop a range of transferable skills, which will allow you to work in a variety of musical professions, across art forms and in academic or professional disciplines.

Course Outcomes

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

All outcomes have been written with reference to the QAA benchmark statements for Music.

Knowledge and understanding. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Illustrate a critical appreciation of evolving practice and theory in the field of Music and Creative Music Technology
- Appraise how music relates to cognate disciplines in the arts, humanities, social and physical sciences
- Articulate a broad contextual knowledge of the relationship between music and wider historical, philosophical, cultural and social issues
- Interrogate the relationship between theory and practice in music
- Assimilate and synthesise diverse ideas in music and arts literature, with evidence of critical appreciation
- Demonstrate the ability to develop ideas and construct arguments in both written and verbal form and to evaluate such ideas and arguments critically.
- Analyse existing and contemporary music making models and integrate these into their own work
- Explore and analyse a range of contemporary issues within music.

Skills, Qualities and Attributes

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Develop ideas and concepts through to a finished product
- Demonstrate personal expression, imagination and creativity in practical music making.
- Integrate new technologies into the design and production of musical products
- Apply a range of advanced transferable skills, including: written and verbal communication skills, ICT skills, negotiation skills and interpersonal skills
- Initiate and manage your own work, showing critical self awareness, intellectual curiosity and artistic and creative development
- Present work in a range of forms, accessible to both expert and non-expert audiences
- Work in combination with others on joint projects or activities, and show

skills in teamwork, negotiation, organisation and decision making.

- Conduct academic research or professional research activities in a coherent and systematic fashion, with design and/or application of appropriate methodologies.

8 Teaching and Learning Methods

The course is delivered using a combination of lectures, seminars, tutorials and practical work.

Lectures will develop your knowledge and understanding and prepare you for any practical or written work that you have to carry out. Seminars will be an opportunity for you to discuss and investigate subjects in more depth within a small group, developing your critical analysis, communication and discussion skills. Guest lecturers will be brought in from time to time for lectures and seminars and this will provide you with the opportunity to engage with industry practitioners and use this process to inform your own work and practices.

Practical work will develop your skills in composition, performance, sound engineering, sound design and product development. This addresses a range of outcomes relating to your subject specific skills. Some of this work will be supported by a tutor but you will be expected to make use of the resources at ncn, including recording studios, rehearsal spaces and performance spaces in order to complete your work.

As this is a QCF level 6 course much of your work will be self directed and you will be required to take control of your own learning. You will negotiate your own subject matter for practical and written work and carry out the appropriate research required for this. A high percentage of the course hours are directed private study and you will be expected to do a lot of work in your own time.

The course team will be available for one-to-one sessions to discuss academic issues and to help you develop and improve your work. All the team are experienced practitioners and will help you to maximise your potential and realise your ideas. Some of these one-to-one sessions will be part of your timetable but you are encouraged to book appointments with the team outside of the normal timetable.

9 Assessment Methods

A wide range of assessment methods are employed across the course that will enable you to meet the course outcomes.

You will have to complete a Dissertation that will assess your ability to carry out research and formulate an argument based on this research. This will prepare you for any postgraduate study that you may go on to.

There are a number of essays and reports during the course and these will assess your critical analysis, written communication, research and discussion skills alongside your knowledge and understanding of your chosen subject. The briefs for these assessments allow you to investigate subject areas of your own choice and to specialise within your own areas of interest.

The practical work on the course is centred on industry style tasks and, again, you will be free to negotiate your own subjects and specialise. These tasks will develop your ability to work as a self-directed learner and also within a team. You will develop your own musical style and investigate new styles, producing high quality final pieces and products. You will have the opportunity to work independently and in collaboration with other students.

Learning journals are used to assess your understanding of the processes, techniques and concepts behind the development of your practical work. The learning journals will also provide you with a valuable record to inform any further study. Written evaluations are used to assess your critical analysis skills.

Throughout the course, you will be encouraged to investigate contemporary issues and methods and to integrate these into your own work. Essays will allow you to discuss these issues and practical tasks will allow you to produce innovative and creative musical work.

There are no examinations on the course and assessed work is 100% coursework based. Assessment details for each module are provided in the module handbook and module specification.

10 Course structure and curriculum

The course is a top-up degree at QCF level 6 and available on a full-time or part-time basis. Full-time delivery will take one year, with part-time study by negotiation on an individual basis over two years. Delivery options will be discussed at interview.

You will be required to complete 6 of the 20 credit modules and also complete the Academic Research Skills module in order to achieve the award. You will choose to study one of the optional modules.

Semester 1	Semester 2
MCM601 - Academic Research Skills - Bridging module (Notional)	
MCM603 - Contemporary Issues in Music (20cp)	
MCM607 - Music Technology System Design (Option 1) (20cp)	
MCM608 - Musical Direction (Option 2) (20cp)	
MCM604 - Modern Composition (20cp)	
MCM606 - Product Realisation (20cp)	
MCM602 - Dissertation (20cp)	
MCM605 - Marketing and Self Promotion (20cp)	

Modules are mapped against the course learning outcomes. This ensures that you meet all the course learning outcomes during the completion of the course. Students who do not complete sufficient work to gain the BA (Hons) qualification may qualify for an Ordinary degree.

MCM601 – Academic Research Skills

The bridging module has been included to support students progressing from vocational level 5 courses to level 6 study. This will be delivered in the first fifteen weeks of the course and will be mandatory for all students. The aim of this module is for you to develop and acquire academic and research skills that will assist you in becoming a reflective practitioner.

MCM602 - Dissertation

The aim of this module is to provide a unique opportunity for you to become independent learners and develop your own particular interests. It offers the chance to build on past experiences, enhance existing skills of planning and organisation and develop new skills of a practical and methodological nature.

MCM603 – Contemporary Issues in Music

This module will develop your understanding of current issues in the area of music. You will develop the ability to discuss and analyse contemporary issues in music with reference to wider socio-political issues and will have a greater awareness of how to keep in touch with current issues.

MCM604 – Modern Composition

This module gives you the opportunity to investigate modern compositional techniques and concepts. You will explore new technologies through both the creation and presentation of original musical products, and will examine the range of creative opportunities offered by music technology applications.

MCM605 – Marketing and Self Promotion

This module develops your skills and knowledge in Marketing and Promotion in the Music Industry. In particular, it prepares you for the freelance nature of the industry and concentrates on self-promotion. You will expand your knowledge of the various means and techniques of marketing and promotion, including new and developing technologies.

MCM606 – Product Realisation

This module gives you the opportunity to design and produce a music and creative music technology product through collaboration, investigation and development. You will use contemporary technologies and techniques to develop ideas through to a final product according to a negotiated brief.

MCM607 – Music Technology System Design

This module aims to give you a deeper understanding of the components, design and integration of a variety of systems used in music technology. You will study a range of music technology standards, both established and developing, and how these standards are used and maintained in modern system design.

MCM608 – Musical Direction

This module will give you the skills and techniques required of a Musical Director. You will choose and arrange musical materials for specific resources and lead performers through structured rehearsals and performance(s). You will participate in performing, leading and being led, gaining valuable and varied experience of being directed.

11 Admission to the course

The course seeks to recruit students who are capable of benefiting from and successfully completing the modules on offer. Prior learning is likely to play a large part in admission decisions and each case will be judged on its merit. Applicants should be creative individuals with experience in composing, performing and creating music. Applicants will benefit from industry experience and a portfolio of compositions and other work would enhance any application. A sound understanding of music theory and ability to play at least one musical instrument to a good level is desirable but not essential. The course seeks to acknowledge the changing nature of the music industry and applicants with musical abilities in the electronic environment will be considered equally alongside those with more traditional musical skills.

Applicants should enjoy self-directed learning and be interested in producing innovative and exciting musical works. You should be capable of planning and conceiving your own work.

Admission will be available to:

- Applicants who possess **one** of the following:
 - Foundation Degree (FdA), or
 - Higher National Diploma (HND)*, or
 - Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)*
- * with predominantly merit/commendation or distinction grades, in a music-related subject area
- Applicants who have successfully completed a QCF level 5 course in a music production, music technology or music performance related discipline should have attained merit and distinction grades in major practical and theoretical work.
- Mature applicants with significant professional experience who hold a QCF level 4 qualification.

Successful entry onto the course will include attending an interview/audition.

Applicants from non-traditional routes who can demonstrate appropriate recent relevant certificated or experiential prior learning can only be accepted onto the course with 240 CATS points. It may be necessary, therefore, to complete an HND or Foundation Degree, before progressing to the BA (Hons) Music and Creative Music Technology.

Direct entry International students will require an IELTS score of at least 6.0, with no component less than 5.5, in addition to an overseas qualification that is equivalent in level to a UK Foundation Degree or Higher National Diploma.

12 Support for learning

- You will receive regular academic and pastoral tutorials with your course leader.
- ncn operates an on-line Personal Development Planning system where you can define and explore your goals and map out ways to turn them into reality. It will enable you to articulate the skills you are developing now in order to open up opportunities in the future.
- An HE Study Skills team operates alongside the course team to give you advice on your academic work. They are available for one-to-one or small group sessions.
- The Learning Centre holds a range of resources specifically for the course. These resources are reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.
- The Creative, Cultural and Digital Industries Cluster has a range of physical resources including three recording studios, two Music Technology Suites, a Recital Room, five band practice rooms, two theatres and numerous other spaces which can be used for teaching, learning and the realisation of your work.
- All of the staff teaching on the course are active practitioners and bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the course delivery.

13 Graduate destinations/employability

On completion of the course you will have acquired the skills and knowledge to work in a wide range of careers in music and the creative arts industries. The course encourages professional practice, self-initiated work and the realisation of products, which are essential skills in the creative arts. You will have a set of skills and knowledge that they can apply to careers in music, film, television, radio, education and new medias. You will also have key transferable and ICT skills, which can be applied to careers that are not related to the course itself.

You are expected to progress into creative careers as performers, session musicians, composers, music producers and sound engineers. You will also have the skills and knowledge to work in management and administrative positions within the music industry, or within education. The academic skills that you will acquire will prepare you for postgraduate study at Masters and Doctorate level. You could also consider a career in teaching and the course will allow you to go on to Graduate Teacher Training or a PGCE.

14 Course standards and quality

The course team meets twice a year to review the course. All assessment briefs are internally verified before issuing. All assessment grading decisions are internally verified to ensure consistency of feedback and grades.

There are twice-yearly Faculty of Creative Arts Moderation and Standards meetings to ensure consistent grading standards across the Faculty.

Students are invited to submit views on the course through end of module review forms, end of year review forms, regular tutorials and school HE course committee meetings once per term.

A Course Standards and Quality Report is written at the end of each academic year to evaluate a range of issues relating to the course.

The course has an External Examiner who writes a report on the quality and standards of the course. This report is used to develop and improve the course.

The course has a University Verifier appointed by NTU to provide advice and guidance on maintaining quality and standards on the course.

The College HE provision is subject to inspection by the Quality Assurance Agency. The last of these inspections took place in 2012.

The Quality Assurance Agency Benchmarking Statements for Music have been incorporate into the course's learning outcomes.

15 Assessment regulations

This course is subject to ncn's HE Assessment Policy (located in the Handbook for Higher Education Students), a copy of which will be handed to you at induction.

16 Additional Information

Collaborative partner(s):	Nottingham Trent University
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	Music
Course recognised by:	N/A
Date implemented:	September 2017
Any additional information:	