

Module Specification

Module Title: Specialist Study Film Music (Composition) 1

Module code:	HBAMFM001	NQF level:	Level 4
Credit value:	30 credits	Semester of study:	1 and 2
Module type:	Compulsory	Pre-requisites:	None
Available to:	BA (Hons) Music (Film Music)		

Module overview

The student will be expected to explore various compositional possibilities as a means of establishing a solid technical grounding. They will also be expected to implement a growing understanding of narrative functions in film and how these can be interpreted by music. Tutors typically facilitate this by providing structured pastiche exercises, such as composing pieces which emulate pre-existing models, as a means of enabling the student to gain a wide perspective on the range of what constitutes 'film' music composition for narrative cinema. This will also encourage greater awareness of the professionalism and adaptability that is expected from a composer working in an 'industry' context. Pastiche work will be carefully balanced with regular opportunities for individual free composition to enable the student to lay the foundations for the development of an emerging compositional voice.

Aims

This module is designed to support students as part of the specialist study strand. Through one-to-one teaching opportunities, students will have opportunities to develop strong technique and musicianship that are needed for their compositional development.

The module aims to:

1. Enable the students to learn and develop the fundamentals of film music composition.
2. Enable students to acquire knowledge and skills of associated production techniques.
3. Develop students' composition, arranging and production skills in order to establish strong foundations on which to build specific film skills for composing for film.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Compose and present music set to picture and 'library music', using fundamental principles and formats.
2. Evaluate the compositional process and outcomes.
3. Apply knowledge relating to arranging and production with an understanding of narrative function in film.
4. Apply appropriate techniques with fluency in chosen compositional idiom.

Learning and teaching methods

Teaching is by **individual tutorial** supported by small group sessions ('film composition in context'). Students will develop their practical knowledge and understanding of compositional technique, arranging and production, supported by small group sessions in 'film composition in context', where staff and students explore common themes and techniques appropriate to their specialist learning. By the end of the year, students will produce a portfolio of compositions set to moving image and library music, demonstrating a range of skills appropriate to the idiom. Students will develop practical and theoretical knowledge of composition, arranging and production technique and of narrative functions in film and how these can be interpreted for music.

Contact hours and directed study (over semesters 1 and 2)

Delivery type	Student hours
Indicative hours for learning and teaching activities	96 hours
Indicative hours of directed study	204 hours
Total hours (100hrs per 10 credits)	300 hours

Opportunities for formative feedback

Students will receive regular formative assessment, both through opportunities for realisation of their compositions and their individual lessons.

Assessment Method

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Coursework portfolio	15 minutes of music to video with 2 minutes of notated score, and 5 minute vlog presentation	100%	1, 2, 3, 4

Re-Assessment Method

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Coursework portfolio	15 minutes of music to video with 2 minutes of notated score, and 5 minute vlog presentation	100%	1, 2, 3, 4

Indicative Reading List

Essential:

- Pendergrast, R. (1992) Film Music – A Neglected Art. Norton & Co.
- Morrell, B. (2013) How film and TV Music Communicate (Vol.1). Primedia.
- Morrell, B. (2014) How film and TV Music Communicate (Vol.2). Primedia.
<http://www.brianmorrell.co.uk/filmbooks.html> (link to PDFs of both books)
- Hepworth-Sawyer, R. & Golding C. (2010) What is Music Production? Focal Press.
- Gilreath, P. (2010) Guide to Midi Orchestration. Focal Press.