

1. Programme Overview

1.1 Programme information

Partner Institution	Leeds Conservatoire
Location of Delivery	Leeds Conservatoire, 3 Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7PD
Programme titles and awards	BA (Hons) Classical Music BA (Hons) Classical Music with Foundation Year
Faculty & code	Faculty of Arts, Cultures and Education (UoH)
Academic unit (& code)	School of Arts (UoH)
Owning subject group (& code)	School of Music and Education (Leeds Conservatoire)
Type of programme	Validated
Mode and duration of study	BA (Hons) Classical Music – 3 years BA (Hons) Classical Music with Foundation Year – 4 years
Method of delivery	Blended
Semesters	Semester 1 – S1, A Semester 2 – S2, A 10 weeks per trimester (20 weeks per academic year plus 5 assessment weeks)
End of level and exit awards	Level 3 – Foundation Certificate Level 4 - Certificate of Higher Education Level 5 - Diploma of Higher Education Level 6 - BA(Ordinary), BA Hons.

Entry requirements	4 years FT for courses with Foundation Year UCAS TARIFF 64 POINTS 3 Years FT for courses without Foundation Year. UCAS TARIFF 96 POINTS Applicants should also have achieved a minimum of three GCSEs at Grade C/4 or above. UCAS tariff points from music graded exams are also accepted (highest achieved per instrument (grade 6 and above), awarded by ABRSM, London College of Music, Trinity College, Rock School). All applicants will be required to either attend an interview in person or online. Please see https://www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/audition for up-to-date details of our audition process. details of our audition process. English Language requirements: All applicants must meet the minimum English Language requirement, as set by the conservatoire. For UK applicants this is GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature at grade C/4. Equivalent qualifications, such as Functional Skills English Level 2 or National 5 English grade C, will also be accepted. For applicants that require a Student Visa to study in the UK, the standard requirement is IELTS 6.0 with no sub-test less than 5.5. We offer pre-sessional English courses to improve your academic English language level and help you prepare for study in the UK. You will be able to use a pre-sessional to meet the English language requirement for your course. * The entry requirements for a programme will be detailed in your offer. If you meet these conditions, you are guaranteed a place on the programme.
Fee	£9790 annual tuition fee for Home Students
Additional course costs	In programmes where students are developing the learning on a specific instrument, we would expect the student to have access to this instrument consistently for teaching and practice. Provision is available at the conservatoire for instrumental support, but students may wish to purchase an instrument for their personal use.

UCAS/HECOS codes	UCAS 305F BA (Hons) Classical Music – 3 years W30F BA (Hons) Classical Music with Foundation Year – 4 years Applications are made through UCAS Conservatoires and UCAS HECOS 101450, 100695, 100637
ATAS requirements	NA
Accrediting body/bodies and date of application/approval	

1.2 Programme outline

The BA (Hons) Classical Music programme at Leeds Conservatoire is designed to develop students into versatile, expressive, and technically proficient musicians. Combining rigorous classical training with a forward-thinking approach, the course offers opportunities to refine performance, composition, and academic skills while engaging with the evolving landscape of classical music.

Students will explore solo and ensemble performance, music theory and analysis, historical and contemporary repertoire, orchestration and professional development. In addition, the programme embraces improvisation, encouraging creative spontaneity in both traditional and modern classical contexts.

A focus on recording techniques equips students with the skills to produce high-quality recordings, essential for professional musicians in today's industry. Furthermore, engagement with global music traditions broadens artistic perspectives, fostering a deeper understanding of diverse musical cultures and their influence on classical music today. Students bring these skills together in collaborative and interdisciplinary projects, working across the arts as well as on their individual classical performance/composition skills. Our classical students not only perform repertoire but create repertoire, through improvisation and composition.

Students benefit from individualised tuition with expert tutors, masterclasses with internationally renowned musicians, and collaborative projects with ensembles, composers, and cross-disciplinary artists. The programme also encourages entrepreneurial and portfolio careers, equipping students with the skills to navigate a broad range of professional pathways in performance, education, composition, and arts management.

Civic Engagement, Regional Skills, and Industry

The programme is deeply embedded in the vibrant local music scene, offering students numerous opportunities to perform and collaborate with leading ensembles and organisations. Students can engage with Opera North and other regional orchestras, gaining invaluable

experience in professional settings. Performance opportunities extend to chamber ensembles, local concert series, and community projects, allowing students to build strong professional networks while contributing to the accessibility of classical music in Leeds and beyond.

The course aligns with regional skills and industry needs, recognising the growing demand for adaptable classical musicians in performance, teaching, composition, and cultural leadership. Through links with organisations such as Opera North, Leeds International Concert Season, students gain industry exposure and hands-on experience in professional settings.

Partnerships and Wider Impact

Leeds Conservatoire maintains strong partnerships with orchestras, chamber ensembles, music festivals, and arts organisations across the UK, providing students with invaluable performance and networking opportunities. Collaborations with leading industry professionals ensure that students engage with contemporary classical music practice while also preserving and reinterpreting historical traditions.

The wider impact of the programme extends beyond music performance, contributing to cultural enrichment, music education, and the promotion of classical music as a dynamic and evolving art form. By nurturing versatile musicians who are responsive to societal challenges—such as accessibility in the arts, audience development, and cross-cultural collaboration—the programme supports the sustainability and relevance of classical music in the 21st century.

1.3 Approvals Timeline

A timeline for approvals is outlined in section 7.1 of the Business Case. Relevant dates are as shown below:

Date of Business Case Approval: n/a

Expected Date of Academic Approvals Panel: (via CPC meeting on 8 May 2025)

Expected Date for Full Approval: (via Education Committee) 20 May 2025

Expected Start Date: September 2026

Expiry of Development Consent: n/a

2. Programme Learning Outcomes mapped to Benchmark statements

Expressed at graduation level. Appendix 1 shows the Programme Outcomes mapped against the QAA Music Benchmark Statements (2025).

3. Programme Design

3.1 Relevant external resources used in the design of the programme

The BA (Hons) Classical Music programme at Leeds Conservatoire is informed by key external resources, including the Quality Assurance Agency's (QAA) Subject Benchmark Statement for Music (2025), and consultations with key stakeholders such as Yorkshire Young Musicians, Opera North, Global Music Foundation, students and professional visiting artists. These ensure the programme maintains high academic standards and aligns with the classical music profession's evolving needs.

QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Music

The QAA Subject Benchmark Statements for Music (2025) provides a national framework for academic and professional expectations in higher education music programmes. The following key principles are embedded within the programme:

- **Musical Knowledge and Understanding:** Students engage with a broad spectrum of classical and global music history, theory, and repertoire, ensuring a well-rounded education.
- **Technical Skills:** Individual instrumental tuition, ensemble participation, composition, improvisation, recording techniques and public performance opportunities enhance students' artistic and technical development.
- **Professional Skills:** The curriculum includes industry-facing modules connected to pedagogy, working in the community, performance, cross-arts collaborations and partnerships with leading organisations to prepare students for professional careers.

Industry Influence

- Our collaboration with **Opera North** has played a key role in developing the programme. By integrating mentoring, rehearsals, and performance opportunities with an internationally renowned opera company, we ensure that students gain hands-on experience in a professional setting. This partnership has influenced our curriculum, emphasising industry connections, ensemble training, and real-world performance skills that prepare students for dynamic careers in classical music.
- Our partnership with **Yorkshire Young Musicians (YYM)** has been instrumental in shaping the programme. By working closely with YYM, we have designed a programme that nurtures and challenges talented young musicians, ensuring a seamless transition from pre-professional training to higher education. This collaboration has informed our approach to specialist tuition, ensemble development, and musicianship training, helping us create a degree that supports and inspires the next generation of classical performers and composers.
- Our partnership with **Global Music Foundations** has been key in writing the programme, particularly in the areas of global music and improvisation. Through this collaboration, we have developed a curriculum that encourages students to explore

diverse musical traditions and integrate improvisation and composition into their practice. This approach broadens artistic perspectives, fosters creativity, and equips students with the versatility needed to thrive in today's ever-evolving classical music landscape.

These collaborations ensure that students develop practical skills and industry connections to enhance their employability.

Consultations with Students, Employers, and Stakeholders

Regular consultations with key stakeholders help refine and enhance the programme:

- Student feedback has been invaluable in shaping the programme, ensuring a balance between tradition and innovation. Through our previous combined degree programmes, students have highlighted the importance of composition, improvisation, and recording techniques, which have now been fully integrated into the course. At the same time, we remain committed to maintaining the high level of performance technique expected at UK conservatoire level, providing rigorous training that prepares students for professional careers while embracing a forward-thinking approach to classical music.
- Feedback from professional artists has been instrumental in building the programme, ensuring it prepares students for the realities of a career in music. Their insights have highlighted the importance of pedagogy, composition, collaboration across art forms, and effective time management, all of which are now central to the course. Alongside these skills, the programme maintains a strong focus on artistic and performance quality, ensuring students develop both the creative and professional expertise expected at a UK conservatoire level.
- **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Initiatives:** Leeds Conservatoire actively engages in discussions around accessibility and representation in classical music, embedding inclusivity in its curriculum. Examples of this can be found in our Global Music modules as well as changes to allow students to submit recordings of performances in some modules.

Continuous Improvement and Knowledge Exchange

The conservatoire is committed to continuous curriculum development, incorporating insights from projects such as 'New Connections' (in collaboration with Orchestras Live), which explores innovative approaches to music leadership and education. These initiatives help refine teaching methods and ensure the programme remains academically and professionally relevant.

3.2 Exemptions from the Academic Framework or Quality and Standards Framework

Exemptions from the Academic framework or Quality and Standards Framework currently held by Leeds Conservatoire are held on the collaborative provision University of Hull Microsoft Team's site.

There is an exemption to the rule that states that there is 20 days for 1st and 2nd markers to mark the assessments for a module. This does not apply to Leeds Conservatoire undergraduate courses due to the part time nature of the majority of the staff involved in the assessment process and the number of student assessments they are involved in.

There is also an exemption relating to anonymous marking. Leeds Conservatoire courses are not anonymously marked due to the performance aspect of the majority of the assessments which require markers to be present.

3.3. Module Structure and Rationale

Appendix 2 shows a visual overview of the structure of the BA (Hons) Classical Music with Foundation Year and BA (Hons) Classical Music.

The BA (Hons) Classical Music programme is an inspiring, performance-focused course designed to transform dedicated classical musicians into skilled, well-rounded professionals. At its core, the programme revolves around intensive performance modules, ensuring that students build exceptional instrumental or vocal abilities as the foundation of their musical journey. From the outset, students are immersed in an environment that encourages live performance, technical proficiency, and artistic expression.

The performance stream lies at the heart of the course. In the early stages (Levels 3, 4 and 5), students dedicate themselves to perfecting their instrument or voice, mastering technique and embracing the art of ensemble performance and interpretation. Through regular recitals, live performances, and ensemble workshops, they cultivate their unique artistic voice. These performance modules set high standards of excellence, with every aspect of the curriculum designed to reinforce and elevate this central focus.

In addition to performance, the programme includes a comprehensive Musicianship strand, which runs throughout the degree. This academic element equips students with the tools to understand and apply classical music theory. In the early stages, students engage in analysis, harmony, and counterpoint exercises that form a solid foundation for their musical knowledge. By later levels, they tackle more advanced projects, such as orchestrating for ensembles and exploring intricate musical forms, enhancing their understanding of structure and stylistic interpretation.

The Global Music modules offer an enriching perspective, allowing students to engage with diverse musical cultures. For example, in the first semester, students study classical music traditions from around the world, such as Indian ragas and African drumming, exploring how

these traditions have influenced Western classical music. As the programme progresses, students explore other global traditions, including Latin American, Eastern European, and Asian classical music. This global outlook broadens their musical vocabulary and inspires creative fusion, encouraging students to integrate diverse cultural influences into their performance and composition.

As students reach Level 6, the programme transitions into professional development. Projects such as the Classical Performance Project, Classical Innovations and Classical Recording Project challenge students to apply their skills in real-world contexts. These modules encourage students to explore new ways of presenting classical music, whether through innovative performance practices, cross-disciplinary collaborations, or high-quality recordings, preparing them for the demands of a modern classical music career.

In addition to performance and technical training, the programme also offers workshops in music entrepreneurship, business, and digital media. These lessons provide invaluable insights into the commercial side of the classical music industry, covering areas such as branding, marketing, and project management. This ensures that graduates are well-prepared not only to perform at the highest level but also to navigate the professional and business aspects of their careers.

Overall, the BA (Hons) Classical Music programme is a comprehensive, performance-driven course that equips students with the artistic expertise and professional skills needed to succeed in the evolving classical music landscape. By combining rigorous performance training with academic and practical modules, the programme ensures that every graduate is well-equipped to build a dynamic, successful career in classical music.

3.4. Assessment Journey

For a closer look at how modules are assessed from level three to level six, please see appendix 4.

Assessment types and tasks all have real-world relevance and are undertaken in both individual and group contexts. Their design is intended to support the development of professionalism, collaboration and enquiry. For example, practical music performance assessments assess the application of technique, artistry, expression and audience engagement. Our practical assessment panels, especially at higher levels, include distinguished external professional musicians, who bring to the assessment process experience of the professional world outside the Conservatoire, and provide students with platforms to present their work to a wider audience.

Assessment will promote dialogue between teachers and learners that facilitates reflective learning. There will be a good understanding and clear communication of the criteria at all stages of assessment, and timely and effective feedback, both formative and summative, that is supportive, that enables development, and that is useful in the next stage of learning.

3.5 Employment and Further Study Opportunities

Classical music students will have the opportunity to progress to postgraduate courses. Internally the MA Music (Classical) and MA Music (Composition) provide coherent progression route from the BA programme. Our postgraduate provision is marketed to undergraduate students and discounted tuition fee rates are available for progressing undergraduates.

Many of our students go on to portfolio careers; the employability skills embedded in the curriculum (in all modules) provide students with skills in business, marketing, teaching and community engagement. Alumni careers include performance; session recording; music production; composition for film, tv, games and advertising; teaching and community music. These areas of skill development are also supported by extracurricular activities such as networking events, concerts, teaching opportunities, recording sessions and cross disciplinary collaborative opportunities.

Studying global music traditions enhances employability by broadening students' musical perspectives and versatility. Exposure to diverse cultural practices equips students with the ability to engage with a wide range of musical styles and contexts, making them adaptable and well-rounded musicians. This cross-cultural knowledge is highly valued in today's global music industry, where employers seek musicians who can collaborate across genres, contribute to international projects, and bring a unique artistic voice to the table.

Studying recording techniques, innovative music techniques, and improvisation significantly boosts employability by equipping students with practical skills that are highly sought after in the modern music industry. Knowledge of recording techniques enables students to produce high-quality work in studio and live settings, while innovative music techniques foster creativity and adaptability. Additionally, proficiency in improvisation allows musicians to collaborate effectively in diverse contexts, making them versatile and able to contribute to a wide range of projects, both in performance and composition. These skills ensure that graduates are well-prepared for the dynamic and evolving demands of the music profession.

4. Appendices

Appendices are required for quality assurance purposes but are not part of any published specification but are retained as part of programme documentation internally (QSS sharepoint)

Please see the Appendices document

4.1 Appendix 1: Programme Learning Outcomes Map

Programme outcomes mapped to Music Benchmark Statements																						
	Programme and Programme outcomes	Benchmark statement																				
Programme Outcome Reference	BA (HONS) Classical Music with Foundation Year and BA (Hons) Classical Music	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9
PO1	Demonstrate a broad-based body of knowledge related to classical/global/improvised music. Knowledge is to include a detailed grasp of appropriate repertoires, texts and technologies, and familiarity with relevant concepts and issues as appropriate to the genre, including its interdisciplinary nature.			x			x		x			x						x				x
PO2	Demonstrate the ability to understand the components and underlying structures of classical/global/improvised music or the classical music industry, and an awareness of its multidisciplinary and collaborative nature	x	x	x				x			x	x			x		x	x			x	
PO3	Demonstrate the ability to relate classical/global/improvised music to wider contexts, and to reflect on and evaluate historic or current debates in the relevant areas – to include wider historical, philosophical, cultural, technological and social practices, issues and phenomena as appropriate.	x	x		x				x	x		x	x					x			x	
PO4	Demonstrate the ability to recognise and analyse by ear or from a written score, the essential components of classical/global/improvised language and notate them where appropriate.				x	x			x			x		x	x		x					x
PO5	Demonstrate and apply technical control and physical requirements of the specialist discipline					x	x	x	x	x				x		x			x	x		x

PO6	Demonstrate the ability to practically realise notated music and where appropriate, the ability to memorise musical materials	x				x		x	x	x			x	x	x		x			x		x
PO7	Demonstrate the artistic, expressive, technical and interpretive skills necessary to communicate classical/global/improvised music convincingly to an audience, and employ personal expression, imagination and creativity in practical music making			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x			x
PO8	Demonstrate the ability to collaboratively realise classical/global/improvised music in practice, effectively demonstrating key musical materials, presenting the music to an audience and/or capturing through audio/video recording	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x

5	20	Classical Performance or Composition 3	Technical performance/technical composition	x				x	x		
5	20	Musicianship 3	Composition Presentation			x	x	x			x
5	20	Global Rhythmic Understanding 2	Presentation		x		x				x
		Semester 2									
5	20	Classical Performance or Composition 4	Recital/composition portfolio	x				x		x	
5	20	Integrative Pedagogy	Video Presentation						x	x	x
5	20	Global Melodic Understanding 2	Presentation	x	x	x	x			x	
		Level 6 Honours Stage									
		Semester 1									
6	20	Classical Innovations 1	Essay and Presentation	x	x	x					x
6	20	Classical Recording Project - audio	Classical Production and Recording-audio plus Reflective Video Commentary		x		x				x
6	40	Composition Performance or Composition 5	Public Performance Recital or Composition Portfolio	x				x	x	x	
		Semester 2									
6	20	Classical Innovations 2	Public Performance of Interdisciplinary Arts project	x			x				x
6	20	Classical Recording Project 2 - visual	Recorded ensemble with video submission			x				x	x

4.4 Module Structure

Module Overview - BA (Hons) Classical Music with Foundation Year and BA (Hons) Classical Music						
	Semester 1			Semester 2		
Level 3	Harmonic and Cultural Analysis (20 Credits)	Introduction to Classical Performance and Composition 1 (20 Credits)	CAT (Classical Aural and Theory) Essential Principles (20 Credits)	Repertoire, Musicology and Composition (20 Credits)	Introduction to Classical Performance and Composition 2 (20 Credits)	CAT (Classical Aural and Theory) Structural Analysis (20 Credits)
Level 4	Classical Performance or Composition 1 (20 Credits)	Musicianship 1 (HIC) (20 Credits)	Global Rhythmic Understanding 1 (20 credits)	Classical Performance/Composition 2 (20 Credits)	Musicianship 2 (CLM) (20 Credits)	Global Melodic Understanding 1 (20 credits)
Level 5	Classical Performance or Composition 3 (20 Credits)	Musicianship 3 (20 Credits)	Global Rhythmic Understanding 2 (20 credits)	Classical Performance or Composition 4 (20 Credits)	Pedagogy (20 Credits)	Global Melodic Understanding 2 (20 Credits)
Level 6	Classical Innovations 1 (20 Credits)	Classical Recording Project - audio (20 Credits)	Classical Performance or Composition 5 (40 credits)		Classical Innovations 2 (20 Credits)	Classical Recording Project - visual (20 Credits)

4.5 Assessment Structure

Assessment Structure BA (Hons) Classical Music with Foundation Year and BA (Hons) Classical Music						
	Semester 1			Semester 2		
Level 3	Harmonic and Cultural Analysis (20 Credits) Essay	Introduction to Classical Performance or Composition 1 (20 Credits) Reflection/Performance	CAT (Classical Aural and Theory) Essential Principles (20 Credits) Exam	Classical Repertoire, Musicology and Composition (20 Credits) Essay	Introduction to Classical Performance or Composition 2 (20 Credits) Performance/Portfolio	CAT (Classical Aural and Theory) Structural Analysis (20 Credits) Exam
Level 4	Classical Performance/Composition (20 Credits) reflection/technical exam	Musicianship 1 (HIC) (20 Credits) Composition	Global Rhythmic Understanding 1 (20 Credits) Presentation	Classical Performance/Composition 2 (20 Credits) Performance/Composition	Musicianship 2 (CLM) (20 Credits) Essay or Collaborative Composition	Global Melodic Understanding 1 (20 Credits) Presentation
Level 5	Classical Performance / Composition 3 (20 Credits) Performance/ composition (with recording)	Musicianship 3 (MAIC) (20 Credits) Essay or Video Presentation	Global Rhythmic Understanding 2 (20 Credits) Presentation	Classical Performance/Composition 4 (20 Credits) Performance exam/composition portfolio	Pedagogy (20 Credits) Video Presentation	Global Melodic Understanding 2 (20 Credits) Presentation

Level 6	Classical Innovations 1 (20 Credits) Essay and Presentation	Classical Recording Project 1 - audio (20 Credits) Classical Production and Recording-audio plus Reflective Video Commentary	Classical Performance/ Composition 5 (40 credits) Public Performance Recital or Composition Portfolio	Classical Innovations 2 (20 Credits) Public Performance of Interdisciplinary Arts project	Classical Recording Project 2 - visual (20 Credits) Recorded ensemble with video submission
----------------	---	--	--	---	---

	Performance - recorded
	Essay or vlog
	Performance - live
	Presentation
	Examination