

Module Specification

Module Title: Contextual Studies 3: Lyric Writing

Module code:	HBASHR094	NQF level:	Level 6
Credit value:	20 credits	Semester of study:	1 and 2
Module type:	Optional	Pre-requisites:	None
Available to:	BA (Hons) Folk Music, BA (Hons) Songwriting, BA (Hons) Songwriting with Foundation Year, and all combined variants of the above		

Module overview

This module will introduce students to differing approaches to lyric writing. Songs from varied eras will be used as case studies to explore how lyrics are structured and function in a range of contexts. This understanding will subsequently form the basis of an analytically informed and structured approach to teaching the craft of writing creative and expressive lyrics.

Elements that will be explored may include rhyme, scansion and meter, tense, mode, figurative language and a number of other devices as determined by varied case studies year on year. These will be taught through a mixture of written and aural examples, and students will be encouraged to start exploring these concepts within their own practice.

Throughout the module, students will be required to actively review their own and their peers' work using analytical frameworks explored throughout the module. These may include a consideration of audience identification and relevance, structural efficiency, creativity, communicative potential and individuality of language.

Aims

Lyric writing is a core component of the craft of writing songs. This module enables students from the Songwriting and Folk programmes to learn to analyse and create their own lyrics informed by style and context.

The module aims to:

1. Introduce students to the craft and practice of lyric writing.
2. Enable students to creatively engage in the practice of setting words to music.
3. Engage with a mixture of written and aural analysis in order to identify core compositional techniques in practice.
4. Focus on the fundamental creative, grammatical and musical properties of lyrical construction.

Learning outcomes

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

1	Demonstrate the ability to analyse a range of lyrics, and identify the purpose of different compositional approaches in context.
2	Craft lyrics that demonstrate a secure technical command of different tools and techniques.

3	Write lyrics that are communicative and expressive within their stylistic context.
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Learning and teaching methods

Lectures. Key concepts and theories will be introduced through formal taught presentations. Taught content and tasks should lead towards an enhanced understanding of the area and an ability for individual research during private study time to aid the development of coursework.

Seminars. Students will take part in a range of discussions, analyses and group exercises to enhance their understanding of each area. Students will also be encouraged to share their unfolding ideas in sessions, and to learn from the development of each other's research. Students will attend a 1 hour seminar each fortnight.

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

Delivery type	Student hours
Indicative hours for learning and teaching activities	30 hours
Indicative hours of directed study	170 hours
Total hours (100hrs per 10 credits)	200 hours

Opportunities for formative feedback

Students will receive regular formative feedback, which will be delivered in seminars.

Assessment Method

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Lyrical Analysis	1500 words	30	1
2 Song Recorded Portfolio* and rationale	Tbc	70	2, 3

Re-Assessment Method

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Lyrical Analysis	1500 words	30	1
2 Song Recorded Portfolio* and rationale	Tbc	70	2, 3

* Lyrics need to be heard rather than simply read, and that is why assessment 2 requires recordings of the songs. The quality of recordings however is not important, provided the lyrics can be clearly heard.

Reading list available online