

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Programme:	Creative Music Making
Awarding Institution:	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
Teaching Faculty:	Music
Type of study:	Part time: distance learning & residential
UK Credits:	60
ECTS:	30

Summary Description

Creative Music Making is a blended programme of study developed by Trinity Laban in partnership with The Open University for musicians with any level of practical experience. It combines flexible, online learning with a residential study period of practical music making.

Designed for instrumentalists and singers who participate in any genre of music, the programme is ideally suited to those who have learned to sing, play or write music without gaining a formal qualification in practical music making, those who wish to return to music making after a time away or those who make music regularly in any kind of ensemble or group. The programme offers students the opportunity to receive face-to-face and online tuition from teaching staff from Trinity Laban's Faculty of Music in Greenwich while contributing toward degree study at The Open University. It is also open to those not registered with The Open University as a stand-alone programme.

The Creative Music Making (CMM) programme is designed for both serious amateur and semi-professional musicians from any musical discipline or genre. The programme is also relevant to musicians from less formal and/or traditional musical backgrounds wishing to develop their skills and knowledge prior to consideration of entry to more formal practice-based and/or informed training routes.

In addition to being available as a stand-alone Trinity Laban 60 credit Level 6 Certificate award, credit acquired on completion of this programme will also be accepted by The Open University (under a collaborative credit agreement) as 60/120 (i.e. 50%) of the Level 6 credit required for completion of an OU BA (Hons) Arts and Humanities degree. For participating OU students, credit and marks obtained from the Certificate programme will be transferred directly into their student record.

The programme aims are:

- To provide the opportunity for learning in the practice and theory of musical creativity and performance;
- To encourage participation in, and reflection on, music-making activity across a wide range of genres and contexts;
- To broaden students' perception of their cultural and social context, and the contexts in which other musicians work;
- To provide pathways through which students can pursue areas of musical interest relevant to the extension of their musical knowledge in practical contexts;

- To support students' development as confident, self-reliant music practitioners capable of making significant and positive contributions to collaborative musical endeavours;
- To develop students' communication skills in an appropriate range of contexts;
- To cultivate an environment that encourages students to appreciate their value as musicians in society;
- To develop students' critical awareness through reflective practice.

Learning Outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- 1.1 Demonstrate knowledge of their chosen musical genre/discipline, its repertoire, techniques, performing practices and traditions
- 1.2 Demonstrate understanding of scholarly approaches to examining musical processes, performances and their audiences and the ability to apply theoretical concepts to their own music-making practices.
- 1.3 Demonstrate an understanding of successful rehearsal and performance preparation and apply this to their personal practice.
- 1.4 Demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which their musical practice impacts and reflects its social contexts, and relevant associated theories.
- 1.5 Demonstrate awareness of a range of ways in which music can be disseminated, and the implications for creation, innovation and research in music.
- 1.6 Demonstrate familiarity with a range of strategies for promotion of musical practice and audience development.

Skills

Skills (subject specific/professional)

- 2.1 Prepare performances using a range of informed and independent strategies.
- 2.2 Show familiarity with a range of memorisation and generative music-making techniques, and knowledge of how to apply these within their personal practice as a musician.
- 2.3 Articulate with confidence sophisticated knowledge of musical concepts, practices and performances.
- 2.4 Demonstrate the musical skills associated with their chosen performance context, in particular awareness of communicative practices and gestures used in collaborative music-making.

Skills (Cognitive and intellectual) [OU Cognitive Skills]

- 3.1 Understand and present complex arguments, evaluating their identity as a musician.
- 3.2 Utilise appropriate time-management strategies in relation to personal practice and the establishment and evaluation of short and long-term goals.
- 3.3 Understand the differing natures of recorded and live performance.

Skills (transferable) [OU Key Skills] [Music Benchmark Generic and graduate skills]

- 4.1 Evaluate and make strategic use of appropriate scholarly resources, digital and otherwise.
- 4.2 Interpret and analyse a range of musical sources (including recorded and notated music) using suitable methods and drawing appropriate conclusions.
- 4.3 Formulate secure and confident learning strategies through reflective personal practice.
- 4.4 Adapt working methods and monitor progress, both proactively and in response to the evaluations of others.
- 4.5 Acknowledge the work of others through appropriate forms of reference.

Values and attitudes

- 5.1 Demonstrate awareness of individual and collective artistic identity and its impact on audiences, peers and professional partners.
- 5.2 Exhibit behaviours commensurate with the public presentation of their music through their performing activities, acknowledging cultural expectations and appropriate responsibilities.
- 5.3 Demonstrate their interest in and curiosity about the performance of music, and potential for continuing artistic and creative development through future musical aspirations.

Graduate Attributes

Trinity Laban aims to produce graduates from our Undergraduate programmes who (variously through their differing programmes of study):

1. Are highly creative and resourceful and exhibit technical excellence within their field;
2. Have outstanding skills relating to their chosen practice (performance, technical, analytical);
3. Are familiar with the possibilities offered by and through collaborative forms of working;
4. Have extensive knowledge of the context within which dance/music work is created and performed;
5. Are confident in the creative use of technologies within their art-form;
6. Have developed the skills required to lead projects, able both to devise and manage their own performance projects, workshops, research, and to participate as team members in such activities;
7. Have the capacity to recognise the applied potential of their art form to engage with a variety of contexts such as social, community, performance, business, education;
8. Have the potential to articulate persuasively and encourage and direct the participation of others in their art form;
9. Are equipped to take advantage of the wide range of employment opportunities available within the arts industries, and who understand how to generate their own work and have the skills to manage a sustainable and enriching career.

Curriculum

Structure

Offered on a flexible basis, Creative Music Making is a blended programme, combining distance/online learning using the Trinity Laban VLE (Moodle) with intensive face-to-face contact through an intensive week-long residential in Greenwich. Students undertake 30 weeks of learning, comprising 22 week-long study units delivered via Moodle, one intensive residential week, and seven weeks dedicated to revision

and preparation of assessment submissions (one for each of the four in-programme assessments, and three for the Final Project).

Patterns of attendance and study

This part-time programme is delivered online during a full academic year with one further intensive residential study week also forming a core element of programme delivery.

Assessments take place at the end of each study block, excepting Assessment 2 which falls mid-way through Block 2. A larger Final Project assessment is undertaken at the conclusion of the programme. The residential study week takes place during the Easter period.

On a programme of this nature – in which each student is responsible for determining their own learning and study patterns – it is impossible to be prescriptive about the amount of study time needed outside formal attendance. Students will find that the pressure of programme-related work will vary dependent on their previous experience and interests, with some units being more demanding than others. It is each student's own responsibility to manage their learning.

Students should note that the residential study week has a pass/fail attendance requirement. Attendance in this context means being present at the time the daily register is taken.

There are no programme co- or pre-requisites.

Taught Blocks

The overarching aims of the programme are to (a) further develop musical skills learned within students' prior musical study and (b) enable students to engage with music practice through scholarly discourse concerning how practitioners construct successful collaborative music-making activities and engage with the many and varied social contexts for that musical practice. These aims are captured in the programme title, *Creative Music Making*: music is presented as both (a) creative, more than just something we reproduce and (b) something that is made, an entity that can be studied.

These overall study aims are contextualised in four different ways, one in each of the blocks of the core written materials. These focus on a broad-ranging definition of musical community and seek to embrace both those who engage with music as creators or performers as well as audiences.

The blocks are of unequal length, reflecting the different emphases placed upon the subject matter as follows:

Block Title	Block Code	Units
Understanding Music Making	M60001a	1-4
Preparing to Perform	M60001b	5-13
Musical Creativity	M60001c	14-18
Being Heard	M60001d	19-22

Learning & Teaching

Learning takes place through a blend of formal tuition, experiential learning and personal study, with a significant amount of online support through Moodle. Regular group and occasional individual tutorials (primarily delivered online, with additional face-to-face tutorial contact during the residential study week), personal self-study and research, and participation in and observation of music practice are the central elements of the provision.

Students will develop and contextualize their learning about practice through their own personal involvement in music making within local group activities, observation of the music-making practices of others, online forum discussions and reflective practice tasks. Tutorial learning will be delivered in small groups, building on information already acquired by students through their personal study of the programme materials made available online. Throughout the programme, students' own practical experience is underpinned with theoretical knowledge to help develop their practical and observational skills and their creative responses to challenges. During the residential week, exposure to performances by outstanding musicians, participation in group activity and engagement with supporting academic discussion and debate will expose the students to a variety of views and approaches current within the world of professional music practice.

The programme aims to enable students to develop independent learning strategies for lifelong learning. Tutors will regularly encourage reflection on learning and the formulation of personal study plans and targets.

Certain elements of the programme will involve studying with other students in a collaborative way, which may involve undertaking leadership responsibilities in projects. Collaboration is considered to be at the heart of professional artistic life and, as such, opportunities such as these represent valuable learning experiences.

This programme assumes 600 learning and teaching hours, with around 60 hours average contact time including the residential study period in Greenwich. Students are expected to spend an average of 16-18 hours per week engaging with programme materials, undertaking personal practice, further reading, and participating in group music-making activities within their local community.

Assessment

Overview

Formative feedback is offered by the tutors throughout the course. Students complete 5 assessment events spread across four blocks of learning: 4 short assessments (50%; i.e. each assessment contributes 12.5% of the final mark) and a Final Project (50%). There will be one personal study week in advance of the first four assessment submission deadlines, and three personal study weeks in advance of the Final Project submission deadline.

Assessment will focus on the articulation of the knowledge and understanding gained by students about themselves as musicians, and not directly on the intrinsic standard of their performance or instrumental mastery.

Candidates will have to take and pass 60 credits to complete Creative Music Making.

Requirements

To pass students need satisfactorily to PASS (40%) the Final Project, and to achieve above 40% as an average score across Assignments 1, 2, 3 & 4. A pass grade is defined by the programme Generic Grade Descriptors (see appendix). The proposed grade will reflect, in the view of the assessor(s), the extent to which the submission has met both the general and specific assessment criteria for each assessment task.

All assignments must be submitted.

There are provisions to retrieve a failure as outlined in the Assessment Regulations.

Awards

Successful completion of this programme of study will lead to a Level 6 Graduate Certificate: 'Creative Music Making'.

The minimum percentage in the overall aggregate for recommendation for the award shall normally be:

- With Distinction minimum 70%
- With Merit minimum 60%
- Without classification minimum 40%

The award shall be decided on the overall aggregate of all assessments calculated as a weighted average.

Certificate:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	6	30	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				With Pass	40

Careers

Careers information is available on the Trinity Laban website:

<https://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/student-life/careers/>

Study Abroad options

Not available

Placement options

Not available

Accrediting Body

Creative Music Making is available as a 60 credit Level 6 module on Specified Open University degree programmes.

Entry Requirements

Admissions

Admission to the CMM programme is by direct application and is not normally refused providing the minimum entrance requirements are met.

To apply for this programme, students need to:

- Be actively involved in practical music making, including some form of music making with others (e.g. playing in a band, singing in a choir, rehearsing as a duet) for the duration of the programme. If they are not already involved in music making with others, they will need to find opportunities in which to be so. Guidance and a list of music-making organisations which may offer appropriate opportunities for individuals is available from the programme team. They will be asked to describe their current and/or planned music making within the personal statement that forms part of the online application to the programme. They will be contacted if the Programme Leader is concerned that these plans will not meet the learning requirements.
- The Open University recommends that students have taken at least 60 credits of music at OU level 2 (FHEQ Level 5) before enrolling. Independent students are welcome to contact the Programme Leader to discuss their suitability for the programme, although previous higher education study is not mandatory.
- Have an ability to synthesise ideas, construct arguments and propose their own solutions, communicating their thinking clearly in the form of essays, spoken word and online discussion. They should be willing to consider their own musical performance in a wider social and cultural context, to challenge their own practices and engage with others online and in person.
- Have a good working knowledge of music and some familiarity with music notations. No formal prior qualification in music is required and students who have played an instrument, or sung in an ensemble or group are likely to have acquired the knowledge and experience needed. The programme is flexible to embrace music making in a range of genres, including those that are not widely notated and that use, for example, chord charts rather than stave notation.
- Some online units do require basic music theory knowledge. Students who feel less confident in music theory are encouraged to take The Open University's free, online course 'An Introduction to Music Theory' as preparation for study towards the Certificate. This can be found at The Open University's OpenLearn website. Student understanding is also supported whilst on the programme through the Musition programme.
- Demonstrate excellent communication and interpersonal skills, including excellent written and spoken English. Applicants who are unsure if their English language skills are at a level sufficient to study on the Certificate are invited to visit The Open University's resource 'Is my English good enough?' <http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/do-it/english-skills>. A range of other OU skills development diagnostic tools are available at Skills for OU Study <http://www2.open.ac.uk/students/skillsforstudy/index.php>. Applicants for whom English is not their first language should demonstrate proficiency in English equivalent to a pass at Trinity Integrated Skills in English (ISE) Level IV, GESE Levels 7-9, IELTS 6.5 overall (min. of 6.0 in all areas). Equivalents from other English language course providers may also be considered.
- have access to a computer or laptop with reliable internet access, as all study materials and activities are accessible via a web browser. Other computer-based activities required during study on the Certificate include word-processing, downloading resources, taking part in online forums, sending and receiving mail, submitting files to Trinity Laban for assessment, and understanding the essentials of computer security. Applicants are invited to visit The Open University's Computing Skills resource pages <http://www2.open.ac.uk/students/skillsforstudy/computing-skills.php> to ascertain if their IT levels are sufficient for study on the programme. It should be noted that, while

some online resources may be accessible via a Smartphone, such a device is not sufficient for the full programme of learning and a computer or laptop is needed.

- be able to make digital audio recordings using a mobile phone or other recording device that can be transferred to a computer. Advice about making, saving, sharing and uploading audio files will be provided following enrolment. Applicants who are in any doubt about their suitability for study on the programme are encouraged to seek direct guidance from the programme team.

All applicants will normally apply through UCAS Conservatoires.

Progression

After completing Creative Music Making, students may wish to progress to further study towards an Open University degree or (subject to successful audition) to further study at Trinity Laban on the Independent Study Programme (ISP), the Postgraduate Diploma, or other programmes. In order to progress to further study at any level, students must pass all elements of assessment.

It is not possible to invoke RPL in order to transfer credit from the Creative Music Making programme to any other Trinity Laban programme of study, however credit from the programme may be transferred to Open University degree study.