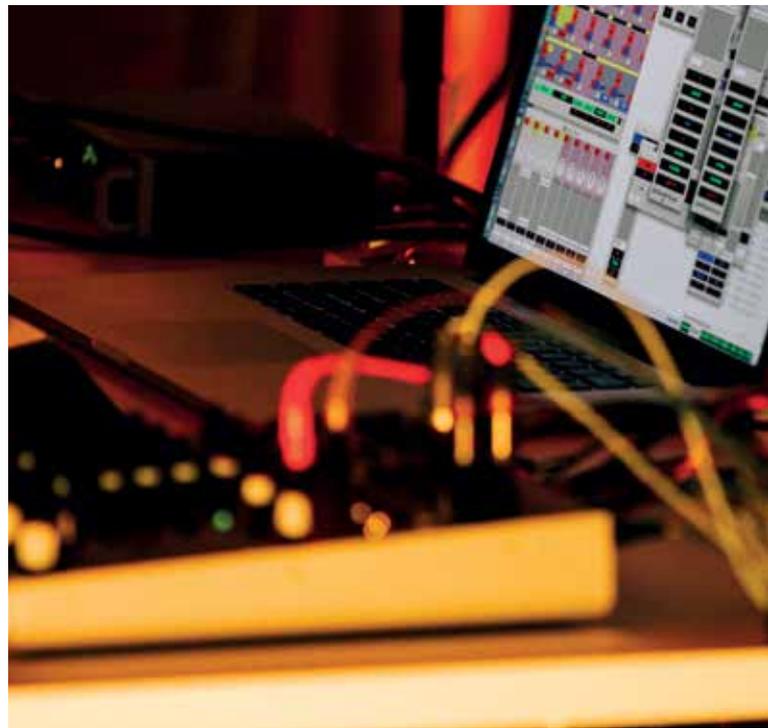




UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES,  
CULTURES, ART HISTORY  
AND MUSIC

# MUSIC



# Music at Birmingham

The Music Department is located in the stunning Bramall Music Building. This facility features a state-of-the-art 450-seat Elgar Concert Hall at its centre, complete with a specially-designed organ by acclaimed French builder, Marc Garnier.

## WHY STUDY MUSIC AT BIRMINGHAM?

- Choose Music at Birmingham and study with composers, performers and music scholars who are internationally renowned in their fields.
- Birmingham is one of the few Music departments in the UK to offer fully-funded instrumental lessons on up to two instruments. We enjoy close relations with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, where many of our students receive their practical tuition.
- Our outstanding facilities in the Bramall Music Building are supplemented by brand-new practice and rehearsal facilities available from September 2019.
- The University Music Society runs over 30 ensembles, including two symphony orchestras, a large chorus, a big band and a wind band. The major ensembles are led by professional conductors and are nationally renowned for the quality of their performances.
- Our BMus programme offers the opportunity to spend the third year studying Music abroad. If you achieve a grade of 2.1 or above in your first year then you will be invited to apply for a Year Abroad in your second year. If your application is successful, you will go abroad in your third year and return to us for your final year. You can choose from a wide variety of universities across the world; including some that offer programmes not normally available in British universities at undergraduate level, such as music therapy or music education. Find out more at: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/yearabroad](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/yearabroad)
- The University of Birmingham main library is excellently equipped for both undergraduate study and specialist research. Its holdings include Elgar's diaries and manuscript scores of his music and of Italian and French baroque works.
- With an impressive array of venues and live music offerings, Birmingham is an ideal place to study music. The University has a wide range of links with the city; we regularly hold concerts in the Town Hall as well as the Birmingham Symphony Hall – widely regarded as the finest concert hall in Europe.

## OUR PROGRAMMES

### BMus Music

Your first year modules give you an invaluable grounding in the programme, and will include History, Tonal Harmony and Counterpoint, Instrumental/Vocal Performance and Composition (both acoustic and studio-based). All students have an opportunity to participate in extracurricular performance activities.

In your second year, in addition to compulsory modules in Critical Musicology and Analysis, you have a wide choice of optional modules, from popular music to ethnomusicology and honing practical skills such as music education, music notation and editorial practice (the selection of optional modules may vary each year). You may also continue to study Instrumental/Vocal Performance and/or Composition.

During your final year you are required to take an Independent Study module in one of the three main disciplines: musicology, composition, or performance. You can

also specialise in one of these disciplines by choosing it as a Special Subject. Each discipline culminates with a specific goal at the end: a performance recital, a portfolio of compositions, or a musicological dissertation. In addition, you will take more optional modules, such as Music and Globalization, Music Cognition, Music Education, Introduction to Jazz Styles or Music and Emotion (selection may vary each year).

### Joint Honours

In addition to our Single Honours programme, Music can be studied as a part of a Joint Honours course in combination with either Mathematics or Modern Languages. You can also take a Major in Music as part of our Liberal Arts and Sciences programme.

In BA Mathematics and Music, your study is split equally between the two disciplines in the first and second years. In the final year, it is possible to change to a major/minor

weighting, spending two thirds of your credits in one of your subjects. In BA Modern Languages and Music, your first-year study is split equally between a language (French, German, Russian or Spanish) and Music. In later years you may change the weighting of the two subjects.





### Barber Institute of Fine Arts

In addition to the contemporary Bramall Music Building, musical activities often take place in the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, which is also home to our on-campus art gallery. Weekly lunch-time concerts by professional artists take place in the intimate art-deco Concert Hall during the Autumn and Spring terms. In addition, a series of seven Celebrity Concerts features intentional artists in evening performances of music ranging from medieval to contemporary.

### The University Music Society

The Society has an eclectic mix of activities including a University Chorus, two symphony orchestras, chamber choirs, wind band, big band and saxophone ensemble. Recent performances include Saint-Saëns's *Cello Concerto*, Op. 33 and *Danse Macabre*, Respighi's *The Fountains of Rome* and Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5*, Op. 47.

### Summer Festival of Music

Run entirely by students, the Festival includes an opera, orchestral and choral concerts, chamber ensembles and open-air performances by the brass and wind bands. Recent performances include Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* and Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No 5* in E minor

### Valefest

The University also runs their annual *Valefest*, which is the largest student-run charity festival in Europe. Based at The Guild of Students, *Valefest* provides opportunities for students to get involved with all aspects of organising and running a music festival.

### Birmingham University Singers (BUS)

BUS is an auditioned chamber choir (up to 40 singers) of a professional standard, which usually gives two concerts per year in the Elgar Concert Hall, plus a performance in Symphony Hall as part of the University of Birmingham Voices. Their annual Festival of Lessons and Carols at St Michael's, Tenbury, is a highlight of the year.

### Early Music ensembles

We also offer a variety of vocal and/or instrumental ensembles (medieval, renaissance, baroque and early classical music).

### New Music Ensemble (NME)

The NME is a flexible ensemble dedicated to the performance of contemporary music. It is directed by the Director of Orchestral Studies, Daniele Rosina. They hold one or two performances a year in the Elgar Concert Hall or the Barber Institute of Fine Arts.

### Chamber Orchestra

This Orchestra is conducted by a combination of professional conductors and students; they hold one concert per term.

### Gamelan

The Department has a set of Balinese gamelan instruments. A series of workshops, available to all students, will be held during each academic year.

### Further afield

The University plays a major part in enriching the music of the region. The department is home to two major festivals: annual BEASTFeast (festival of electro-acoustic music) and biennial Crosscurrents (festival of contemporary music). Some students perform with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) chorus at the Symphony Hall or join Ex Cathedra, a leading semi-professional choir. The Guild of Students Musical Theatre Group provides another outlet for the many talented student instrumentalists and singers to provide entertainment in the region.



'The Bramall Music Building is exceptional, with module choices to match. I could not be happier with my decision to study Music here at Birmingham.'

NATHAN, BMUS Music, second year

'I have enjoyed the performance aspect of my course the most, as I have been able to build a great working relationship with my teacher at the Conservatoire.'

CATHERINE, BMUS Music, final year

**Careers and employability**

Amongst one of our most recent cohorts, 100% of Music graduates were in employment or further study within six months of graduation (DLHE 2017).

Our Music graduates have a range of transferable skills that are highly prized by graduate employers. The study of musical performance and musicology develops analytical skills, lateral thinking and creative imagination. The process of performing itself helps to develop skills in personal organisation, event management, teamwork and entrepreneurship to succeed in a competitive field.

Music graduates from Birmingham often go on to pursue highly successful careers with employers including: City of London Sinfonia, CBSO, Purcell School, the Royal Academy of Music, local government, schools, colleges and universities. Many of our graduates have secured management jobs in orchestras, music venues and other arts and performance organisations. Job titles of our alumni include: accompanist, composer, international events manager, lecturer, music teacher, orchestra administrator, trainee orchestra manager, performance music assistant, piano teacher and professional musician. Alumni have also moved beyond music and entered a wide variety of careers, including accountancy,

**Typical offer**

Course	UCAS code	Typical offer
BMus Music	W302	AAB
BA Mathematics and Music	GW13	AAB
BA Modern Languages and Music	R752	AAB
Liberal Arts and Sciences	Y001	A*AA-AAA

the Army, business management, the Civil Service, computing, financial markets, graphic design, marketing, librarianship and the police force. Some also decide to pursue postgraduate study in music and other fields.

Celebrated former students include: Conductor Sir Edward Downes; Director of Opera at the Royal Opera House Elaine Padmore; singers Carolyn Sampson and Susan Parry; and composers Jonathan Goldstein and Gabriel Prokofiev.

**Required subjects and grades:** A level Music grade A; Music Technology is not accepted as a substitute for A level Music. If the Music A Level grade A has not been attained, ABRSM Theory grade 7 or 8 is accepted as an alternative to the Music A Level alongside 3 A Levels at AAB. We do not accept BTEC qualifications in lieu of Music A level or Grade 7 ABRSM Theory.





## NEXT STEPS

**How to apply**  
Apply through UCAS.

**Offer-holder Visit Days**  
Following the application process, offer-holders will be invited to an Offer-holder Visit Day and are strongly encouraged to take this opportunity to visit the Department and meet staff and students with whom they would be studying.



## LEARN MORE

**Email:**  
study-music-ug@contacts.bham.ac.uk

 @artsatbham

Full details on all courses with year-by-year breakdown can be found at:  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/music](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/music)

This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be discontinued and new ones offered in their place.

Please note the information in this brochure is correct at time of publication but may be subject to change (June 2019).

