Module Descriptor

Title	Orchestration		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	MUSC09034	**SCQF Level**	9
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Jo Scott		

Summary of Module

Students will analyse the role and application of orchestration within popular music from a theoretical position. Students will examine orchestral sections and how they can be utilised, taking into consideration, musical and practical limitations, and practices.

Students will study popular music compositions and songs to gain an understanding of how orchestration has been implemented.

Students will analyse and reduce an orchestral score into a version for piano(s).

Students will also orchestrate an existing solo led piece.

Module Delivery Method	**On-Campus[1]** ☒	**Hybrid[2]** ☐	**Online[3]** ☐	**Work -Based Learning[4]** ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☐ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☒ Other (specify) NCL	

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☐	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☐

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate competence in the technical study of orchestration, showing an understanding of orchestral sections and of historical style and modern compositional principles relating to the application of orchestration within popular music.
L2	Analyse and reduce an orchestral score into a version for piano(s).
L3	Orchestrate an existing single solo instrument led musical piece for a chosen orchestral section(s).
L4	
L5	

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 9** Demonstrate and/or work with: • An understanding of the scope and defining features of the subject/discipline/sector, and an integrated knowledge of its main areas and boundaries. • A critical understanding of a range of the principles, principal theories, concepts and terminology of the subject/discipline/sector. • Knowledge of one or more specialisms that is informed by forefront developments.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 9** Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: • In using a range of the principal professional skills, techniques, practices and/or materials associated with the subject/discipline/sector. • In using a few skills, techniques, practices and/or materials that are specialised and/or advanced. • In practising routine methods of enquiry and/or research. • To practise in a range of professional level contexts that include a degree of unpredictability.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 9** • Undertake critical analysis, evaluation and/or synthesis of ideas, concepts, information and issues in the subject/discipline/sector. • Identify and analyse routine professional problems and issues. • Draw on a range of sources in making judgements.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 9** Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills in support of established practices in a subject/discipline/ sector, for example:

	• Present or convey, formally and informally, information on standard/mainstream topics in the subject/discipline/sector to a range of audiences. • Use a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work. • Interpret, use and evaluate numerical and graphical data to achieve goals/targets
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 9** Exercise autonomy and initiative in some activities at a professional level in practice. • Practice in ways that show awareness of own and others' roles and responsibilities. • Seeking guidance where appropriate, manage ethical and professional issues in accordance with current professional and ethical codes of practices.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours. The delivery of the module will consist of a mixture of lectures (on campus and online), interactive sessions, tutorial/workshops, and independent study. The module aims to equip you with the necessary skills to understand the application of orchestration within popular music and, to apply this understanding in reducing an orchestral score and orchestrating a single instrument piece. A wide range of music scores, theory techniques, the study of the historical background, practical exercises, and tutorials, will be incorporated into the module to explore orchestration and its application. Learning and teaching will comprise of. • Weekly lectures and practical workshops • Practical tasks and listening exercises • Meetings with lecturer to discuss progress on assessment tasks • Independent preparation and study • Lecturer feedback and peer review	
Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)

Lecture / Core Content Delivery	10
Practice-based Learning	16
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	10
Independent Study	164
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Adler, S. (2016). The Study of Orchestration. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, Fourth International Student Edition.

Adler, S. (2016). Workbook: for The Study of Orchestration. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Workbook edition.

Mathews, P. (2006). Orchestration: An Anthology of Writings. 1st ed. London, UK: Routledge.

Sevsay, E. (2013). The Cambridge guide to orchestration. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Wagner, J. (2009). Professional Orchestration: A Practical Handbook - From Piano to Strings. Alexander University, Inc.

(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.

(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Arts Media**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**

Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	Arts & Media
Moderator	TBC
External Examiner	Leslie Gaston-Bird
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Assessment 1 – Research Portfolio analysing the application of orchestration within popular music whilst demonstrating an understanding of orchestral sections- 20%
Assessment 2
Completed Score (reduced orchestral score for piano(s)) – 40%
Assessment 3
Assessment 3 – Completed Score (orchestration of existing solo led piece) – 40%
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Research Portfolio	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	20	8

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Completed Score	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	40	14

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Completed Score	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	40	14

Combined total for all components	100%	36 hours

Change Control

What	When	Who