



## The Faculty of Music

The study of music is both demanding and immensely rewarding. A university degree course in music is traditionally more academic than a course at a College of Music, where the emphasis is primarily on performance. But in fact the BMus syllabus in the Faculty of Music contains a very wide range of different elements – including performance. These extend from composition and orchestration, through history, analysis and aesthetics, to acoustics, ethnomusicology, the study of musical instruments and electronics. The variety of these core courses and of the options offered later in the degree course reflect the varied specialisms of the teaching staff, and allow students to develop existing skills and talents as well as pursuing quite new areas of interest.

One of the striking features of the life of music students at Edinburgh is the sheer amount of music-making which takes place. The city of

Edinburgh's artistic and concert life is lively, wide-ranging and challenging and the University, and the Faculty of Music in particular, make a significant contribution to this, organising its own series of regular concerts and organ recitals. In addition to these, students themselves organise a wide variety of concerts and performances from the Symphony Orchestra of the Musical Society to choral concerts and operatic productions to chamber music and contemporary music premieres.

Alison House, the home of the Faculty of Music, is situated close to the heart of the University – adjacent to the new Edinburgh Festival Theatre and a few minutes walk away from the central University area with the Students' Union and its offices, the Chaplaincy Centre, and George Square with the Main University Library. Also close at hand are the Reid Concert Hall with the Ahrend organ and St. Cecilia's Hall with its unique oval concert hall built in 1762 for the Musical Society of Edinburgh. Alison House itself is well provided with practice and listening rooms, a computer lab, a new electronic studio suite, a students' common room and the Reid Music library with its ample study space.

## Music at Edinburgh

The study of music in the University of Edinburgh covers a wide range of interrelated topics, grouped into four principal subject areas: Compositional Studies (including Counterpoint, Harmony and Orchestration as well as original composition); Historical Studies; Performance Studies; Scientific and Theoretical Studies.

The great majority of students in the Faculty are enrolled for the BMus or BMus Honours degree (respectively 3-year and 4-year courses). History of Music may be studied as a subsidiary subject for up to 4 years by students in the Faculties of Arts and Divinity, and for a shorter period by those in most other faculties in the University. No preliminary academic qualifications are required for this course although it does contain

options suitable for those with good passes in Music at Higher or A Level. As an "outside" subject, History of Music offers a valuable opportunity to those with a lively interest in music to broaden the scope of their degree.

## Bachelor of Music

### Course Details

The Faculty lays much stress on the integrated character of its degree structure, and there is a large measure of interrelationship between the various aspects of the course. For example, a topic such as the classical string quartet will be explored simultaneously as an object of historical study, as a compositional craft to be acquired, and as a performing art to be practised.

For two years all BMus students pursue a common course:

*Compositional Studies:* Counterpoint and Harmony I & II, which provide a secure grounding in musical crafts, with reference to the style and language of specific historical periods, e.g. the 16th-century counterpoint of Palestrina and the 18th-century counterpoint of Bach; Orchestration; Composition, in which the students are encouraged to explore their own musical experiences and appetites to discover starting points and basic working materials, and are taught to assess these ideas and work them into coherent musical forms.

*Historical Studies:* An outline history of Western music from c.800 to the present. Since the course aims to impart an understanding of the scope and methods of musical history to students from a wide variety of backgrounds – it begins with very general issues concerning the social and religious role of music in society, progressing in later stages to more detailed critical and analytical work on specific scores. The appropriate analytical skills are developed in a parallel course in Analysis, and an introductory course in Aesthetics forms part of

Degrees in the Faculty of Music		Degrees in the Faculty of Arts	
BMus (Ordinary and Honours) in: Music Music Technology	UCAS code W302	MA Honours in: History of Art and History of Music	UCAS code VW43
	UCAS code W351	<b>Degrees in the Faculty of Science and Engineering</b>	
		BSc Honours in: Physics with Music	UCAS code F305

the second-year syllabus. All first year students receive tuition in either German or Italian, courses specially devised for the needs of musicians.

*Performance and Organological Studies:* All students undertake a course in Keyboard Skills designed to develop aspects of practical musicianship, and attend an Aural Class. Performance Seminars (often involving distinguished visiting musicians) encourage an imaginative, informed and professional approach to the performing of music, and a short Recital is required of every student at the end of second year; funds are available to help defray the cost of instrumental or vocal lessons, which are arranged through the Director of Studies, with approved teachers in the area.

*Scientific and Theoretical Studies:* Students are introduced to Acoustics (a special 'acoustics for musicians' course taught by lecturers in the Department of Physics), to Organology (the study of musical instruments) and Ethnomusicology.

*Third and fourth year courses:* From the end of second year students design their own courses (subject to certain constraints) from a generous range of options, four of which are taken in each year. It is possible to continue to study music "in the round" as in the first two years, or to concentrate on one of the four general areas outlined above. It is also possible to study a subject in another faculty.

## Music and Technology

A BMus in Music Technology is also available. The degree brings together scientific and artistic approaches to the subject. This course has been introduced in response to the growing interest in the application of technology to music and is run in conjunction with the Department of Physics in the Faculty of Science and Engineering. This degree is open to candidates who have achieved good grades in Music and in Maths (Higher or A Level) and Associated Board Grade 7 or equivalent in any recognised instrument.

## Teaching and Assessment

Teaching is by lectures, seminars, practical classes and tutorials, with increasing emphasis

on small-group and, in some subjects, individual teaching in the later stages of the course.

Assessment is based in part on submitted work and in part on examinations or (in the case of some subjects at third and fourth-year level) dissertations.

## Research Opportunities

Research opportunities are available in most fields of musical study, including Composition (in conventional and electronic media), Organology (the study of musical instruments), Historical Musicology, Theory and Artificial Intelligence. The Faculty has the care of two magnificent collections of instruments: the Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments and the Russell Collection of Early Keyboard Instruments. The photograph at the head of this leaflet shows one of the many outstanding instruments in the Russell Collection - the world's only surviving transposing harpsichord with its original keyboard arrangement, made by Ioannes Ruckers in Antwerp in 1638. Both of these collections function as museums and as focal points for work on the restoration and history of instruments, and on historical performance practice, and (thanks to the Faculty's close links with the Department of Physics) for acoustical and organological research. The Faculty Library (Reid Music Library) is one of the finest collections in Britain.

## Entry

The Faculty has grown rapidly in recent years: whereas in 1991 numbers of students graduating amounted to only 15 undergraduates and 5 postgraduates, it is now admitting approximately 35 BMus students annually. Entry to the degree of BMus requires Associated Board (or equivalent) Grade 7 in piano, to provide the necessary basis for the score reading and keyboard skills elements of the course. All selected UK candidates are invited for interview and tests of musicianship. The Faculty is generously endowed with bursaries and scholarships, which are available for a variety of purposes: entrance scholarships, organ and choral scholarships, scholarships for vacation and postgraduate study. Details can be obtained from the Faculty.

## Beyond the Faculty

In recent years - particularly through its Music in the Community option - the Faculty of Music has forged links with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and with the Education and Social Services Departments of Lothian Regional Council. This has given students the opportunity to work with professional orchestral players, with teachers and school children in a variety of composition-based and performance-based projects. The Music in the Community course recently won for the University one of the coveted Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education.

## Career Prospects

Thanks to the very varied nature of a degree in Music, the Faculty's graduates are to be found in a wide range of professions - these include the church, the civil service, the police force, performing musicians, teachers of music and arts administrators, or as employees of music publishers, recording companies and in all the media.

## Further Information

There are various opportunities for prospective students to visit the University. The annual University Open Day normally takes place on a Friday in mid-June and all are welcome to attend this - students, their families, teachers and careers staff. In addition most departments have a Visiting Day in the autumn and the Faculty of Music is happy to see prospective students at this time. Individual visits can also be arranged. If you would like any further information about the Faculty or to arrange a visit, please do not hesitate to contact:

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