

## MA PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### KEY FACTS

<b>Programme:</b>	MA (Composition / Ensemble / Jazz / Music Performance / Performer-Composer)
<b>Awarding Institution:</b>	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
<b>Teaching Institution:</b>	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
<b>Type of study:</b>	Two year full-time; four years part-time; (one year 'intensive')
<b>UK Credits:</b>	210; (180)
<b>ECTS:</b>	105; (90)

### OUTLINE

#### Summary Description

The MA programme is designed for students wishing to be professional musicians: performers and composers. It aims to equip students with the necessary musical skills, insight and experience required by the contemporary profession in its widest sense but with a focus on the Western Classical and Jazz traditions; the Composition, Ensemble, Jazz, Performance and Performer-Composer pathways each offer discrete comprehensive specialist training.

This is a two-year full-time or three/four-year part-time Level 7 programme which enables graduates to create music as instrumentalists, vocalists or composers at a highly professional and employable standard. You will have established a secure artistic personality and developed a range of sophisticated professional skills. As an emerging artist you will have created music – solo, small and large ensemble – in a variety of settings and in relation to a range of audiences. You will have gained understanding of the music profession and its audiences in contemporary society. Through your understanding of audience you will develop collaboration, innovation and entrepreneurial skills in support of a professional career. The programme prepares you to communicate at the highest levels as an artist through your instrument/voice/compositions and to engage audiences through informed discussion and text where appropriate.

This programme comprises compulsory 'core' modules designed to develop students' individual technical and interpretative skills in their principal study discipline through one-to-one and group tuition, as well as through a wide range of departmental and cross-department solo, small group/chamber music, and large ensemble activities, in which settings you will be able to develop a range of artistic and related skills relevant to their professional aspirations. In addition you will undertake an intensive research module which provides a foundation for Masters level critical thinking to underpin all aspects of the programme; the programme also offers a range of 'Electives', through which you will be able to develop and explore subjects appropriate to your developing artistic profile and which will enhance your employability in the professional world.

The programme is designed to allow the skills and experience of the individual student to flourish and for new skills and insights to be gained. The programme is structured to enable progressive development

through the material studied and the assessments undertaken, leading to your increased autonomy and independence as a learner, in preparation for professional life and/or study at Level 8.

**The programme aims are:**

- to provide advanced musical training at postgraduate level which encourages the demonstration of individual musical talent and scholarship, underpinned by articulate, informed and sophisticated critical self-reflection, at a highly professional standard;
- to enable musicians of proven ability, and with the potential for further training, to advance and refine their skills and specialism/s and deepen their professional expertise through focused activity in those areas;
- to acknowledge the significance of musical context, highlighting the relationship of music to wider artistic, historical, philosophical, cultural and/or social practices, issues and/or phenomena;
- to cultivate musicians who have the ability to work in a variety of complex musical groupings and multi-disciplinary environments, and to exercise initiative, personal responsibility, and leadership in professional practice;
- to create an environment which encourages risk and nurtures creativity and innovation, reflecting, wherever applicable, cutting-edge thinking within the profession, and taking advantage, where appropriate, of advances in digital and other technologies;
- to produce enterprising, entrepreneurial musicians equipped both for existing and developing high-level employment opportunities as performers/ composers/educators in today's diverse, internationalised and ever-changing music profession.

**What will I be expected to achieve?**

On successful completion of this programme, a student will be expected to be able to demonstrate:

**Knowledge and understanding**

- demonstrate through performance and/or composition (and/or other media where appropriate) an in-depth knowledge of the student's principal instrumental/vocal/ composition discipline (including a detailed grasp of appropriate repertoires and texts), familiarity with relevant concepts and issues, and the ability to refer to, apply and/or challenge relevant materials and current research in a range of performing and/or creative contexts;
- demonstrate through performance and/or composition (and/or other media where appropriate) the ability to analyse, manipulate, interrogate or create musical materials (texts, artefacts, phenomena) as a means of expressing individual artistic concepts; present results or findings in a coherent and communicable form; and show critical awareness of areas of uncertainty or contention;
- evidence an advanced understanding of the relationship between theory, practice and theoretical constructs in music; be able to use relevant techniques and methods to explain and demonstrate that interrelationship; and to demonstrate how these relate to its creation, performance and/or transmission;
- demonstrate a broad contextual knowledge appropriate to the specific musical area/s studied, including their relationship to wider artistic, historical, philosophical, cultural and/or social practices, issues and phenomena, and to cognate disciplines (such as dance, multi-media, education etc.) as

appropriate. To demonstrate critical engagement with these questions especially in relation to music's creation, performance and/or transmission

### **Skills (subject specific/professional)**

- demonstrate an individual musical personality or 'voice' through advanced technical skills, high levels of interpretative insight, personal expression, and originality in creative work, and to be able to adapt these skills imaginatively for new situations across a broad range of repertoire, whether in a solo or collaborative ensemble context, and in a variety of public performing situations;
- exhibit, either through comprehensive broadening or deepening of specialisation, fluency in stylistic interpretation, composition and/or improvisation across a range of repertoire;
- demonstrate the ability critically to analyse and/or synthesise knowledge of the essential components of musical language and structures through a range of different approaches;

### **Skills (transferable)**

- to be a self-critical and motivated learner, able to produce independent work of high quality (rigorous, defensible, robust, imaginative, etc.), to guide the learning of others, and to manage your own continuing professional development;
- to be able to work creatively and effectively with a group as leader or member, and to exhibit skills in leadership, teamwork, negotiation, organisation and decision-making as appropriate, and handle with confidence conflict, risk and the unexpected;

### **Values and attitudes**

- A sophisticated understanding of collaborative processes and co-operative working, recognising the role of individual responsibility within the creative process, and an understanding of relevant professional expectations and protocols,
- Autonomy of learning, researching and presentation/communication with others;
- Flexibility and responsiveness to individual and collective innovation and creativity, recognising risk as an element of that creativity.

### **How will I learn?**

Learning takes place through a blend of formal tuition, experiential learning and personal study. Instrumental, composition, or vocal tuition is the central element of the provision, consisting of individual one-to-one learning, group tuition, rehearsals, workshops, seminars and masterclasses. Students will develop and contextualize their individual tuition within a broad range of solo, small-group/chamber, and large-ensemble activities. Most tuition within the 'Electives' module are delivered through formal taught sessions, seminars and tutorials, and consolidated in extensive self-study. Delivered in small groups, wherever possible practical experience is blended with theoretical knowledge to develop performers informed musicianship and employability skills. Visiting artists, ensemble directors and lecturers expose the students to a variety of views and approaches current within the profession.

The programme aims to enable you to develop independent learning strategies for lifelong learning. Your tutors will regularly encourage you to reflect on learning and to formulate personal programmes of study and targets for learning.

Certain modules/components in the programme may involve you studying with another student or students in a collaborative way (e.g. with other musicians, dancers or other artists in a working relationship). This may involve you working alongside, and/or undertaking leadership or supervisory responsibilities for other (possibly undergraduate) students engaged in projects with you as, for example, assistant directors or performers. 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 2,100 (1,800) learning and teaching hours with at least 580 hours average contact time.

### **How will I be assessed?**

#### **Overview**

Assessment methods as far as possible mirror professional contexts. In the assessment for 'Professional Studies' performance/composition activities will include a combination of solo, chamber/small ensemble, large ensemble and technical work. These will be supplemented by written/oral assignments requiring critical reflection on a range of contextual matters (the wider profession, audience, the concept of the informed performer etc). Other programme components, including Research Lab, CoLab, the Electives and The Entrepreneurial Musician will feature a blend of written and practical assessment methods (including, but not exclusive to essay, analysis, composition, improvisation, performance, editions etc.) arrived at through negotiation between the student and tutor depending on the material under consideration. Elective assessments will focus on employability skills and knowledge.

#### **What do I have to do to pass?**

You must achieve a pass mark of at least 50% in each module in order to pass the programme. The mark awarded will reflect the extent to which you have met the descriptors set out in the level 7 marking criteria.

Compensation (the award of credit for a failed module) may be awarded for no more than one module of up to 20 credits, provided that a mark of no less than 40% has been achieved in the module to be compensated. Compensation is not permitted for modules of more than 20 credits.

### **What award can I get?**

Successful completion of the MA programme of study can lead to one of the following postgraduate awards:

- Master of Arts (Composition)
- Master of Arts (Ensemble)
- Master of Arts (Jazz)
- Master of Arts (Music Performance)
- Master of Arts (Performer-Composer)

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

- With Distinction                      minimum 70%
- With Merit                                minimum 60%
- Pass without classification        minimum 50%

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

Master's Degree:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	210 (180)	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
With Pass	50

Postgraduate Diploma:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
With Pass	50

Postgraduate Certificate:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	70*	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
With Pass	50

\*The credits must be from the Professional Studies module only.

## CONTENT

### What will I study?

#### Key Progression Points

The programme consists of a single part, however there is a progression point at the end of the first year of study. Students who have yet to complete the PGD taught modules (not including The Entrepreneurial Musician) due to failure or deferral may be required to complete any outstanding assessments before embarking on the project.

Where an assessment component is failed, one resit may be permitted by the Assessment Board. The mark will be capped at the minimum pass mark of 50%. The date and mode of reassessment will be set by the Interim Assessment Panel or by the Assessment Board (depending on the timing of the assessment).

To complete the programme you must attain a pass or better for each module. Please see the full version of the regulations and the generic grade descriptors for further information on where compensation may be applied to an unsatisfactory mark, and for grade thresholds that allow resubmission of assessment tasks for a pass mark.

### Taught Modules

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Professional Studies	M701	140	Core	No	7
Research Lab	PGD702	20	Core	No	7
CoLab	PGD703	10	Core	Yes	7
Electives	PGD704	20	Elective	Yes	7
The Entrepreneurial Musician	M705	20	Core	Yes	7

### Elective Component Options

Component Title	Component Code	Component Credits
Arranging and Musical Techniques	PGD704a	10
Creative Leadership	PGD704b	10
Digital Musician	PGD704c	10
Music Now	PGD704d	10
Music Pedagogy for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	PGD704e	10
Musical Direction	PGD704f	10
Psychology in Music Performance	PGD704g	10

### Taught Modules (Intensive)

Module Title	Module Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Professional Studies	M701	110	Core	No	7
Research Lab	PGD702	20	Core	No	7
CoLab	PGD703	10	Core	Yes	7
Electives	PGD704	20	Elective	Yes	7
The Entrepreneurial Musician	M705	20	Core	Yes	7

## Elective Component Options

Component Title	Component Code	Component Credits
Arranging and Musical Techniques	PGD704a	10
Creative Leadership	PGD704b	10
Digital Musician	PGD704c	10
Music Now	PGD704d	10
Music Pedagogy for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	PGD704e	10
Musical Direction	PGD704f	10
Psychology in Music Performance	PGD704g	10

For full-time 'intensive' mode students, the programme commences in September each academic year, and continues until the end of September of the following year (13 months).

For full-time 'standard' mode students, the programme commences in September each academic year, and continues until July of Year 2 (21 months).

For part-time students who remain in part-time mode throughout their studies, the programme commences with registration in September of Year 1 and continues until the completion of all modules/components at the end of July of Year 4 (36 months).

Students commencing study in part-time mode may elect to complete the second part of their studies on a full-time basis. In such cases the programme commences with registration in September of Year 1 and continues until the completion of all modules/components at the end of July of Year 3 (27 months). Likewise students commencing study in full-time mode may elect to complete the second part of their studies on a part-time basis. In such cases the programme commences with registration in September of Year 1 and also continues until the completion of all modules/components at the end of July of Year 3 (27 months).

*Full-time 'intensive' mode:* You will take 180 credits in one year. All modules are core except for the Electives. The academic teaching year normally commences in September and finishes in September.

Modules may be whole-year or part-year intensive learning. Research Lab, CoLab and Electives will be studied at various points in terms 1 and 2 (blocks A to D), with assessments at the end of each module.

The Professional Studies module learning will be undertaken across all three terms (blocks A to E). The major performance/composition element will be assessed in September. Assessments for the minor performance/composition element and ensemble performance/composition element will be completed during term 2 (blocks C to D), as advised by the programme team. Assessment of the Generative Musical Techniques/Analysis Professional Studies components will take place concurrently with the major performance/composition element assessment in September.

*Full-time 'standard' mode:* You will take 210 credits in two years. All modules are core except for the Electives. The academic teaching year normally commences in September and finishes in July.

Modules may be whole-year or part-year intensive learning. In year 1 Research Lab and the Electives are studied in terms 1 and 2 (blocks A to D), with assessments at the end of each module. In year 2 The Entrepreneurial Musician is studied in terms 1 and 2 (blocks A to D). CoLab may be taken in both years of study, but is assessed in the first year of study only; it takes place in term 2 (between blocks C and D).

Professional Studies module learning is undertaken across all six terms (blocks A to E of both years of study). The major performance/composition element will be assessed in June. Assessments for the minor performance/composition element and ensemble performance/composition element will be completed during term 2 (blocks C to D), as advised by the programme team. Assessment of the Generative Musical Techniques/Analysis Professional Studies components will take place concurrently with the major performance/composition element assessment in June.

*Part-time mode (4 years):* You will take 120 credits in the first two years of study and 90 credits in the second two years of study. All modules are core except for the Electives. The academic teaching year normally commences in September and finishes in July.

The pattern of learning is determined in consultation with the Programme Leader, but is normally expected to include one complete modules in year 1 (Research Lab) and one complete module in year 2 (Electives). Students may participate in CoLab during all years of learning but it is normally assessed during year 2. Learning within the Professional Studies module will also take place over the entire duration of the programme years, with assessment of individual components divided across years 2, 3 and 4 as appropriate.

Students will sign an individualised learning agreement, developed as appropriate to their circumstances and specific learning needs.

## CAREERS

Graduates from the MA programme, the precursor to this new programme, now work in the field as, for example, independent / freelance performers/composers in a wide variety of contexts, music facilitators with professional music ensembles and organisations, as teachers in schools, colleges and universities or as music administrators and project managers.

Alumni profiles can be found on the website: <http://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-profiles?tag=2089>

Comprehensive careers support is available for all Trinity Laban students and recent graduates, supported by a dedicated Careers Coordinator and our careers website: [www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/student-experience/careers](http://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/student-experience/careers)

## STUDY ABROAD / WORK PLACEMENTS

### Study Abroad options

Erasmus exchange and/or study abroad is available to students in 'standard' full- / part-time modes of study (i.e. not the one year 'intensive' programme mode) during their second year of Masters study. Such study may be undertaken for a period of up to 3 months (maximum) by negotiation with the Programme Leader and Head of Department.

### Placement options

Not Available

## ACCREDITATION AND PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

### Accrediting Body

Not Available

## ADMISSIONS

### Entry Requirements

For entry to the full-time or part-time PGD programme (or MA, MMus, or MFA programmes), applicants are usually expected to hold a good (II:i) pass in a BMus (Hons) degree, or an equivalent qualification, such as a Performer's Diploma (LTCL, LRAM, LRSM, ARCM etc.). Equivalent entry qualifications or professional experience may be considered for entry to the programme, subject to completing the Institution's RPL procedures.

Admission to the MMus/MA programmes within 'intensive' mode will only be considered for candidates achieving a grade of 70% or above within the performance/composition component of the audition process. During interview, MMus/MA 'intensive' mode candidates will also be required to additionally discuss their ability to dedicate themselves to their studies for the duration of the programme and to demonstrate, through their responses clear academic aptitude and experience. NB It is generally considered that it is not viable for students on the 'intensive' study mode to undertake part-time work concurrently with their studies.

Applicants must demonstrate through the application, audition and interview procedure the potential to carry out detailed investigations of topics in which they have a particular interest, and to communicate their ideas coherently and effectively to others. They will show the capability to deliver at the end of the relevant programme a series of performance, written and/or oral submissions, which display both a critical awareness of the implications of their topic, and the ability to synthesise and communicate their ideas effectively.

Applicants for whom English is not their first language should demonstrate proficiency in English equivalent to IELTS 7.0.