



The
University
Of
Sheffield.



Department
Of
Music.

The University of Sheffield Department of Music.

'The department is like a tardis: I am constantly amazed by the immense quantity and variety of music-making emanating from within its deceptively small frame.' Jac McKeigue, postgraduate student.

'From the open day at the music department I got a feel for what studying music at Sheffield could be like. The staff and students were not only friendly and welcoming but also I gained a real sense of community in the department and there was a great atmosphere.'

Rebecca Peniston, 2nd yr undergraduate student.

'The department has a great open door policy and as a returner to education it was reassuring to know I could get the support I needed with adjusting to university life.' Jonathan Eyre, 1st yr undergraduate student.



The department

Welcome to the University of Sheffield's Department of Music. This brochure gives you an overview of the department – its staff, students, courses, ensembles and much more. It will answer many of your questions and help you to make the important decision as to where you will study.

At Sheffield the exceptionally varied interests of the staff enable us to offer a very broad undergraduate and postgraduate programme, within which students are encouraged to develop their talents and enthusiasms. The department offers an outstandingly diverse curriculum, which brings together traditional areas of musical study – the history, theory and aesthetics of Western music from the middle ages to the present day – with disciplines such as music psychology, music technology and ethnomusicology, which gives Sheffield a unique and exciting position among British music departments.

A constant theme running through our work is the interaction between music as a subject for study and music as a 'practised' living art. For example, all undergraduates do composition as part of their first year, and have the chance to explore the creative possibilities in the department's state-of-the-art studios. Performance is taught not only in individual instrumental lessons but also in lectures and master classes. And an integral part of the life and work of the department is our programme of

concerts, in which all students are encouraged to participate. The department plays an important role in Sheffield's thriving cultural life, with musical attractions outside the university including international chamber and orchestral series, experimental music, opera, and jazz, traditional and popular music. Within the department we organise weekly lectures by visiting speakers – leading scholars, composers and performers – to which all students are warmly invited. All this makes Sheffield a rich and inspiring environment for the study and practice of music.

The university

Founded in 1905, the University of Sheffield is one of the country's leading research and teaching universities, confirmed by the top university guides. Teaching Quality Assessments rate teaching very highly across a wide range of subjects and official research assessments confirm our reputation as a centre for world-class research in many disciplines. The university is a popular choice with applicants for university places, and once they arrive our students enjoy the experience so much that many settle in Sheffield after they graduate. The union, and the union building, are the focal point of student life at Sheffield. A whole range of services are provided, from professional help and advice at the Student Advice Centre, through to a huge choice of sports and activities and an award-winning and ever-expanding entertainment programme which caters for every taste.



The city

Sheffield is England's fourth largest city, with the wealth of facilities you would expect to find in a major city – yet it's compact, friendly and accessible. According to the Home Office, Sheffield is also the safest university city. As well as its many woodlands and public parks, Sheffield is uniquely situated only minutes away from open countryside, and a short drive from the Peak District National Park. Public transport links are excellent, including an efficient tram and bus network running through the city. The cost of living for students is one of the lowest in the country.

Why study music?

The simple answer is because you love it. If you have a real enthusiasm for performing or composing or for studying music in its many aspects you will find your time here rewarding and fulfilling.

There are practical benefits from a music degree too. Obviously it is a qualification that can be of enormous value to anyone wishing to work in any area of the music profession. But

equally, taking a degree in music will allow you to develop qualities that are valued by prospective employers in many other fields. You will develop skills in thinking, writing and communicating, alongside the creative and practical expertise you gain on the course. The experience of performance builds personal confidence, whilst taking part in musical ensembles teaches you about leadership, organisation and teamwork. All of our graduates have found that a music degree from the University of Sheffield is seen as evidence of outstanding achievement awarded by one of the most respected universities in the country.

Career opportunities

Studying at the University of Sheffield provides a solid base for a huge variety of careers. The most common career choice for music graduates has been teaching, be it class teaching or peripatetic instrumental teaching, and full-time research. However, our graduates have progressed in a number of different music-based careers including professional

performing, arts administration, music management, journalism and publishing (arts publications and websites) and working within the recording industry, television and community arts. Graduate composers have achieved widespread success with both individual works and music for film and television, including BBC documentaries and a film score which was nominated for a BAFTA. A number of our graduates now have lectureships or research positions in music departments in the UK and around the world, while others have formed their own companies, including a business providing pre-school music groups to local communities and professional artist management.

A music degree is an excellent base for any career and a number of our graduates have been successful outside the field of music, including law and industrial management. Whatever the career path chosen, an overwhelming majority of previous students still enjoy their passion for music.

Life as a music student in Sheffield



You'll find yourself welcomed into a thriving music department with a huge range of activities on offer. Yet the department is still small enough to be informal and friendly. People soon get to know one another, with plenty of social events to help, many of them organised by the student-run Music Society.

The department currently occupies three buildings containing lecture rooms, practice facilities, technology areas and social spaces. It is well equipped to satisfy a vigorous teaching and research schedule with excellent library facilities, Information Technology, Sound Studios and a wide range of instruments ranging from viols and 18th-century keyboards to Asian and African percussion.



From the 2008/9 academic session, the department will move to exciting new premises, consisting of the brand new conversion of a large, listed Victorian building and purpose-built technical facilities – all located at the heart of the university's rapidly developing campus. This major development for the department will provide significantly enhanced facilities for teaching, research and performance, and direct access to the learning resources of the university's new Information Commons, as well as close proximity to other Arts Faculty departments.



The diverse nature of music is well represented in the research interests of the staff who will teach you. Their

work is widely published in a variety of ways: in books, journals and magazines, on CD and DVD, and in lectures, concerts and broadcasts.

Opportunities for performance within the university are plentiful. Many students also take the chance of playing gigs, whether classical, jazz or rock. You may want to take part in the city's lively amateur music, which includes established ensembles such as the Sheffield Symphony Orchestra and the Sheffield Bach Choir.

As one of the UK's principal cities, Sheffield offers a wealth of music to experience. There are regular concerts in the City Hall, featuring world-class artists and orchestras. Opera, ballet and plays are performed at the Lyceum Theatre and the famous Crucible Theatre, where there is also an exciting series featuring some of the world's greatest soloists and chamber ensembles. The Hallam FM Arena and Don Valley Stadium attract some of the biggest names in pop music. There is a lively jazz scene in the city, as well as opportunities to hear traditional music from Sheffield's diverse cultural communities.

Undergraduate Courses

The majority of students in the department follow the BMus (single honours Music) programme. Others read for a dual honours BA combining Music with one of the following subjects: Biblical Studies, Chinese Studies, East Asian Studies, English, French, German, Hispanic Studies, Korean Studies, Philosophy or Russian. Another degree programme that has recently been introduced is the BA in Traditional Musics with Folklore which is run in conjunction with the National Centre for English Cultural Tradition at the School of English.

Like all undergraduate courses at Sheffield, the music degree has a modular structure. At each of the three levels (years) of the course you will take modules worth a total of 120 credits. As you progress through the course you will be able to tailor it increasingly to your own strengths and interests. The system also allows you to take modules from other departments in the university if you wish.

An important feature is the way the course is designed to integrate practical and academic study, with plenty of opportunities to gain performance experience.

Level One provides students with the opportunity to experience a wide range of study areas within the subject. There is an emphasis on developing skills in performing, composing, evaluating and writing about music. Single honours (BMus) students take eight 10 credit modules, whilst dual honours (BA) students take four, with another 40 credits from their dual subject. The remaining 40 credits are to be chosen either from the optional music modules, or from other departments. Most available subjects are within the Arts Faculty, but others such as Computing or Psychology are possible too.

Core modules at Level One:

- Critical responses to music
- Composition
- Music of the world

- Harmony
- Individual project
- Music history
- Listening skills

Optional modules at Level One:

- Performance
- Case studies in Western music
- Popular music studies
- Introduction to studio techniques

Level Two deepens your understanding of one or more key areas of thought and one (or two) selected topics in music history, while allowing you to choose up to four specialised modules from a wide range available to you either at Level Two or at Level Three.

Modules for students at Level Two only:

- Analytical approaches to music
- Music in culture and society
- Practical skills
- Level Two music history topics

Modules available at Level Two or Level Three include:

- Music of East Asia
- World music performance
- Music of Africa
- Psychological approaches to performance
- Music perception
- Creative music technology
- Sound recording
- Music in education
- Music in the community
- Music and arts administration
- Ensemble performance
- Orchestral techniques
- Classical harmony
- Messiaen
- The operas of Mozart
- Wagnerian music drama
- 19th-century symphonic thought
- 20th-century ballet
- Jazz history
- Popular music
- Music and the recording industry

Level Three allows you to specialise further in chosen areas – original composition, solo performance, dissertation on a chosen topic – any one of which you can take as a double option worth 40 credits. You also take three or more further modules from the Level Two/Three list.

In both Levels Two and Three, BA dual honours students must ensure they take 60 credits in each of their subjects.

How will you be taught?

In a variety of ways. Lectures are there to stimulate, to convey important information and to introduce a range of music. Just as important are seminars where you will discuss issues and share ideas, workshops on performance and composition, opportunities for fieldwork, and one-to-one tutorials. All instrumental and vocal tuition (whether or not you decide to specialise in performance) is one-to-one with a specialist teacher. Every student is assigned a personal tutor, with whom to discuss overall progress. They are the primary point of contact should any academic or personal problems arise during your study.

How will you be assessed?

This depends on the requirements of the different modules. Most modules are assessed by project work, essays and other appropriate forms of assessment, such as compositions or oral presentations. There are formal examinations for just two modules at Level One. Your work at both Level Two and Level Three will count towards your final degree result.



Performance

The study of performance in the department has a central and distinctive role, and is a feature that has consistently proved a major attraction for applicants at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. You will receive free tuition on your first instrument (guaranteed in your first year, continuing in second and third year if performance options are chosen) from instrumental tutors, many of whom are professional soloists. Other tutors are recruited from orchestras such as the BBC Philharmonic, the Hallé and the English Northern Philharmonia. The department has recently appointed the outstanding international ensemble, Ensemble 360, as ensemble in residence, as well as a World Musician in Residence, currently the distinguished Indian tabla player, John Ball.

As a department we organise around 60 public concerts every year, including an evening series given by professional artists, a weekly lunchtime series at which students often perform, and a Summer Music Festival organised by students. Staff in the department direct the University Symphony Orchestra, the University Wind Orchestra and the Chamber Choir and Chamber Orchestra. As a music student you will be given the opportunity to play regularly in chamber ensembles, and are encouraged to form your own groups where possible. The department also runs a New Music Ensemble, and stages at least one operatic production every year in the University Drama Studio. Music students are also welcome to join any of the student-run groups which are open to all.





Graduate Studies

With a flourishing programme of graduate studies and rapidly increasing numbers of graduate students, the department is committed to creating a stimulating and cohesive research environment. While helping students develop the skills and initiative needed for independent research, the department has aimed to foster a sense of community among its postgraduates by encouraging regular contact with each other and with staff, providing a postgraduate study room, holding weekly research seminars (presented by visiting scholars and staff speakers) and occasional Graduate Study Days as a forum for intellectual enquiry and debate, and encouraging postgraduates to participate fully in the life of the department and to take a leading role in its concert giving.

Most graduate teaching is on an individual basis or in small groups. Research training is organised by the Graduate Research Office, which arranges a programme of courses and other events, enabling students to make social and academic contacts in related departments.

Taught courses

Taught MA courses at Sheffield include well-established programmes as well as several new and restructured courses. Most are available for either full-time or part-time study.

MA Ethnomusicology

Ethnomusicologists seek to understand the whole human process within which music is imagined, discussed and made, and to relate specific musical sounds, behaviours and ideas to their broader social, cultural and political contexts. Studying individuals and societies all around the world, including the West, we aim to discover and document human musical life in its full richness and diversity. Substantially restructured for 2006, the course includes theoretical and practical modules on ethnomusicology, world music performance, and a final dissertation presenting original research.

MA Music Management

Bringing together expertise from the Department of Music and the Management School, this new course offers a practical grounding for a career in music management, including real-life work experience.

MA Music Theatre Studies (available for two-year part-time study only)

This unique programme is being redesigned for 2007, and will include taught modules in music theatre as well as practical experience and a supervised dissertation.

MA Psychology of Music

This course is open to those with backgrounds in music or psychology, and features strong links between those two academic departments of the university. Students are introduced to key concepts in music psychology through seminars in the first semester, and are assessed through a folio of essays and experiments. They are then required to submit a dissertation on a topic of their own choice, and are supported in this through individual tutorials and group presentations.

MA Sonic Art and Media Production

Introduced in 2006, this innovative course focuses upon three areas: the acquisition of technical skill in the production of audio and video; creative applications of technology to produce artistic works in a variety of media formats; and contextualisation of personal work within a broad spectrum of artistic practice. Assessment comprises a portfolio of creative work, assignments and one essay. Modules will be sufficiently flexible to accommodate both technical and non-technical projects and where appropriate, offer opportunities for collaboration.

MA Performance Studies

The highly successful MA in String Quartet Performance, introduced in 2005, is to be expanded to encompass performance studies more generally for 2007.



Taught courses (distance learning)

The two distance-learning MA courses are available for two-year part-time study only, and each recruits new students in alternate years. They are designed for people in full-time employment, who may study anywhere in the world, maintaining contact with staff and other students electronically, and coming to Sheffield for two four-day residential courses each year.

MA Psychology for Musicians

This well-established and popular course will be revised in structure and delivery for 2007, providing more web-based content and allowing students to specialise in music education or psychology in their second year. Modules in musical development, psychology of performance, and music in everyday life provide a grounding in the scope and application of music psychology during the first year. In the second year, students are given training in research methods and critical reading, and then complete a dissertation on a topic of their choice.

MA in World Music Studies

World Music Studies is intended for musicians and educators who would like to know more about the music of the world and the academic discipline that studies it, ethnomusicology. This part-time course is completed in two years. In addition to electronic tutorial support, students attend short residential courses in Sheffield, where they participate in lectures, workshops,

fieldwork experiences and individual tutorials. The next intake will be in 2008.

Research degrees: MMus, MPhil, PhD

Students may undertake research leading either to a Master's degree or to a Doctorate. As of 2006, more than 100 research students are registered with us, working in such fields as music therapy, musicology, ethnomusicology, performance, psychology of music, composition and the recording industry. At doctoral level, most students submit dissertations, but special regulations exist in the areas of composition, performance, and creative music technology. Composition graduates are assessed on a portfolio of compositions, while a recital forms a significant part of the examination for performance students. A portfolio of creative media technology research with accompanying dissertation forms the requirement for computer music researchers whose work does not fit within a composition brief. The MPhil is usually seen as the first stage of study toward a PhD, but in some circumstances, students may graduate with the MPhil only. In this case, the assessment options are the same as for the PhD.

In the *MMus by Research*, students choose two of four assessment options: Dissertation, Folio, Composition and Performance.

The course lasts one year full-time or two years part-time.

Dissertation: 20,000 words on a topic of the student's choice.

Folio: a collection of materials with a practical component, such as analyses, transcriptions, interviews, fieldwork, or case studies.

Composition: a substantial portfolio of original instrumental or electroacoustic compositions of about 25-30 minutes duration in total.

Performance: a 45-minute solo recital given in public to an audience, including the examiners.

PhD (musicological and ethnomusicological research)

PhD in Composition (portfolio of work of instrumental/vocal and/or electroacoustic resources)

PhD in Performance Studies (assessed by thesis and a public recital)

The university offers 'joint location' and 'remote location' PhD programmes, allowing students to study for a Sheffield PhD anywhere in the world. Students living with varying degrees of 'remoteness' from Sheffield (including Norway, Malta and Taiwan) have successfully studied for research degrees in the department.

Academic staff and their research interests

Anthony Bennett: history of popular music; the 19th-century broadside ballad; early English song; orchestral performance.

Chou Chiener: music of Taiwan; ethnography; popular music.

Eric Clarke: psychology of music; music and meaning; performance studies; history and analysis of recordings; improvisation and creativity.

Peter Cropper: string quartet performance; chamber music.

Jane Davidson: performance and research; performance perception; the development of musical ability; music education; creativity; gender and music; the interaction of music, dance and drama.

Nicola Dibben: music and culture; psychological approaches to listening; music and emotion; pop music; 20th-century music.

Peter Hill: performance; 20th-century piano music; Messiaen; Stravinsky; Bach; Beethoven; history and analysis of recording.

Martin Hindmarsh: English vocal music; vocal performance; opera and drama; conducting.

Dorothy Ker: composition (including chamber and orchestral music, music theatre, interactive/mixed media); music and virtual/actual space; music and mathematics; the nature of creativity.

Andrew Killick: the music of Korea; American and popular music.

Andrew Lawrence-King: Spanish baroque music; continuo performance on harp, organ, harpsichord and psaltery.

Adrian Moore: electroacoustic composition; sound recording and multi-media; music since 1945.

George Nicholson: composition; history of jazz; 20th-century music; piano accompaniment.

David Patmore: history of recording; the recording business.

Stephanie Pitts: music in secondary and higher education; musical participation; social psychology of music.

Nigel Simeone: French music; Messiaen; Janáček; Broadway musicals.

Jonathan Stock: ethnomusicology, including the ethnomusicology of Western music; music in China; music education.

Kathleen Noss Van Buren: music and dance of Africa and the African diaspora; the efficacy of music in promoting social change; medical ethnomusicology; applied ethnomusicology.

Support staff

Jo Burrows: Departmental Secretary

Sarah Blamire-Brown: Concerts Assistant and Secretarial Support

Susan Pennington: Distance-learning Co-ordinator and Conference Assistant

Pete Fletcher: Technical Support

Dave Moore: Studio Manager

Where to Find Out More

Detailed information on all music courses can be found on our website: www.shef.ac.uk/music

Course structures and admission requirements

Full course information and admission requirements can be found in the Music Department section in the University's Undergraduate and Postgraduate Prospectuses. To obtain a copy please visit www.shef.ac.uk/undergraduate/orderprospectus (undergraduates), or www.shef.ac.uk/postgraduates/order_form (postgraduates), or contact Student Recruitment, Admissions and Marketing on +44 (0)114 222 1255.

Open days

Undergraduates

The university holds regular open days usually involving an hour-long visit to the department. For a list of open days please see www.shef.ac.uk/opendays

In addition to these, the department organises a series of music open days throughout the year, which give you the chance to find out more about the type of academic and social life you can expect from studying in Sheffield. If you have been made an offer you will automatically receive an invitation to an open day. You will receive an extended tour led by a current student, a lecture from a current member of staff on his or her latest research, a talk about the department itself and an opportunity to ask questions, usually over lunch or coffee.

For further information please contact the Departmental Secretary (see contact details below).

Postgraduates

The university also holds a number of postgraduate open days throughout the year. For dates please see www.shef.ac.uk/pgopenday

Fees and funding

Information about fees for all courses can be found on the Student Services website at www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/fees. The Student Services site also includes information about funding your course and details of financial support from the university at www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/finance. If you wish to speak to someone at Student Services please contact +44 (0)114 222 1299.

Accommodation

For details of all available university accommodation and advice on private housing in the city see the Accommodation and Campus Services site at www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/contacts/accommodation or contact +44 (0)114 222 6041.

Other useful web links:

Disability and Dyslexia Support – www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/disabilities

English Language Courses and Support Services – www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/contacts/elc

International Student Services – www.shef.ac.uk/ssd/international

Information for Mature Students – www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/welfare/mature

University of Sheffield Union of Students – www.shef.ac.uk/union

U Sport – University's Sport Facilities – www.usport.co.uk

University Health Service – www.shef.ac.uk/health

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If you have any other enquires about studying music at Sheffield, please contact the Departmental Secretary, using the contact details below:

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