

# MUSIC PERFORMANCE

## TRIMESTER 1 - Bachelor & Diploma units

### INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

→ Techniques and Styles\*

In this seminar, students will be introduced to contemporary and current industry technologies. Students will gain skills and knowledge in Music Technology, which will aid them in music development and creation. They will gain familiarity with electronic keyboards, using Digital Audio Workstations and MIDI techniques to support the content delivered in The Materials of Music.

### FOUNDATIONS 1

→ Ensemble Performance\*\*

Ensemble Performance 1 involves focused rehearsal of a series of pieces from various contemporary music styles. Ensemble relies on building working relationships and learning the communication required for effective rehearsals and performances. Students are encouraged to develop an awareness of basic etiquette and responsibilities of ensemble members including punctuality, preparedness, and constructive participation.

### THE MATERIALS OF MUSIC

→ Music History and Analysis

Students encounter the fundamental concepts of music-making that they will continue to develop and extend their understanding of over the course of the degree. In this subject, students learn to recognise and label the scales, chords, intervals, metres, and textures that are central to contemporary music practice. Students will also study the craft of melody writing, and develop skills in musical notation that will support the parallel subjects.

## TRIMESTER 2 - Bachelor & Diploma units

### SONGWRITING SKILLS

→ Techniques and Styles\*

This class introduces students to creating within a range of standard song forms. Students will study the conventions for reading and interpreting lead sheets and other forms of sheet music, and an awareness of the standard composing, arranging and improvising approaches in a range of genres. Students will listen to key examples, and discuss and explore a range of techniques of songwriting and developing musical ideas within the standard forms.

### FOUNDATIONS 2

→ Ensemble Performance\*\*

Ensemble Performance 2 involves focused rehearsal of a series of pieces from various contemporary popular music styles demonstrating the use of non-diatonic chords, blues tonality, and rhythmic syncopation. Students are further introduced to the nuances of performing songs from various contemporary music styles and genres.

### WESTERN MUSIC

→ Music History and Analysis

In this subject, the history of 'Western Music', from antiquity to the 21st Century, is explored in relation to stylistic construction, with key emphasis on the social context in which the music was created. Drawing on research and analysis, musical examples will be explored as to how concepts of music changed and how these changes manifested themselves in the sound and delivery of music.

### CHART WRITING

→ Harmony and Aural Studies

In this subject, students study the fundamental skills of music notation. Students develop abilities in written musical communication to enable them to create high-quality chord charts, lead sheets, scores and parts. In class, students are mentored through a planned series of exercises designed to give confidence and skills to develop their abilities independently.

### CRITICAL THINKING

→ Industry Awareness

In this subject, students are challenged to activate their critical thinking skills and engage in assignment writing, creative work, reading, listening, presentations, and performance. Students will strengthen their critical thinking skills through exploring modes of analysis, problem-solving, reflection, evaluation, and creation. Students will be presented with artistic works and industry issues, which they must then critically evaluate, embracing both analytic and synthetic thinking processes.

### HARMONY

→ Harmony and Aural Studies

In this subject, students develop and extend the skills acquired in Materials of Music, into the analysis and construction of diatonic harmony. Students study techniques in the handling of 2 and 3 part harmony, the fundamentals of voice leading, cadence, and non-chord tones in both major and minor keys.

### CRITICAL SURVEY

→ Industry Awareness

In this subject, students will hear presentations by industry professionals that cover various roles and facets within the entertainment and content industries, and guest speakers will connect with students to share their experiences. Presentations will consider industry trends such as the impact of digitisation, the forces transforming the industry, and the functions of principal organisations within the industry.

### TRIMESTER 3 - Bachelor only units

#### IMPROVISATION

→ Techniques and Styles\*

In this seminar, students study a broad range of skills in improvising, applicable to both solo and ensemble performance situations. Students study the craft of creating an improvisation by using applicable techniques.

#### MUSIC DIRECTION 1

→ Ensemble Performance\*\*

In this unit, the focus will be given to a detailed understanding of the ensemble texture. The components of the ensemble will be explored along with their roles and groupings such as rhythm section, front line, and vocals. Emphasis will be given to understanding the nuances of blending and communicating within an ensemble at a more sophisticated level than encountered during the Foundation units and apply their skills in creative approaches to original arrangements.

#### POPULAR MUSIC 1850-1950

→ Music History and Analysis

In this subject, students are introduced to the history of popular music, tracing the development of this music from its origins through to the dawn of the rock'n'roll era. Starting in the mid 18th century, it runs through the major formative movements in popular music from minstrelsy and Tin Pan Alley through to blues, jazz and the roots of rock'n'roll, with significant attention to the social, historical and cultural influences that have informed these developments.

### TRIMESTER 4 - Bachelor only units

#### MUSIC STYLES

→ Techniques and Styles\*

Styles focuses on student investigation of a genre with which they are unfamiliar. Through analysis of archetypal examples drawn from chosen genres, students will develop a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of musical style. Students will explore the cultural and musical formation and influences, leading exponents, aesthetic principles, texture and structure analysis, rhythmic theory, improvisation, and musical idiom, and how historical events have influenced the style.

#### MUSIC DIRECTION 2

→ Ensemble Performance\*\*

This unit explores ensemble rehearsal and performance with a series of pieces from contemporary popular music that demonstrate chromaticism, swung 16th grooves, polyrhythm, and altered chords. This repertoire reflects and reinforces the music theory students learn in Harmony and Aural Studies.

#### CONTEMPORARY MUSIC 1950 - PRESENT

→ Music History and Analysis

In this subject, students will learn the history of contemporary popular music since 1950, applying deeper concepts of analysis to the process of understanding the construction of key genres of popular music, from early rock'n'roll through soul and funk to reggae and contemporary RnB. Attention will be given to the social, historical, and cultural influences that have informed these genres, and also to the key performers and commercial context.

#### COUNTERPOINT

→ Harmony and Aural Studies

In this subject, students develop and extend the skills studied in Harmony, into the analysis and construction of three- and four-part harmony and counterpoint. Students are introduced to the basics of SATB arranging and the concepts of 'strong' and 'weak' beats, and extend their skills in realising chord sequences, harmonising a given melody, and creating non-diatonic harmony.

#### INDUSTRY PRACTICES

→ Industry Awareness

This subject examines the entertainment industry structure. Students will learn strategies for monetising their work and protecting their interests, whilst exploring tools for the marketing, promotion, and distribution of their work. With attention to the Australian industry, its key players, and position in the industry at large, students are introduced to areas such as music publishing, copyright, distribution, touring, promotions, publicity, sources of income and fundraising, as well as the development of a strategic support network.

#### ARRANGING FOR ENSEMBLES

→ Harmony and Aural Studies

In Arranging for Ensemble, previous skills developed are applied to the construction of arrangements for small ensembles. Students notate scores to be analysed, discussed, and performed by student ensembles. Writing for the rhythm section and vocalists will be discussed and explored in-depth, while other instruments will be addressed as appropriate to the ensemble makeup.

#### PRODUCTION CONCEPTS

→ Industry Awareness

This subject will introduce students to some broad concepts in Audio Production. This subject aims to cover the essential understanding of tools and terminology to help entertainment Managers and Musicians communicate and liaise with Audio Engineers and Producers in the Industry.

## TRIMESTER 5 - Bachelor only units

### PRE-PRODUCTION

→ Techniques and Styles\*

In this subject, students will develop the skills to conceive, organise, manage and deliver a self-directed project up to the final pre-production stage. This is an invaluable experience, directly transferable to CD creation, gig and event presentation, grant application and other music business activities. The project will result in twenty minutes of recorded music that represents the culmination of the student's development as an artist through the degree.

### PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION 1

→ Ensemble Performance\*\*

Ensemble Five explores rehearsal and performance of a series of pieces from contemporary popular music that demonstrate creativity, diversity, and complexity in songwriting.

### GLOBAL MUSIC

→ Music History and Analysis

In Global Music, students are introduced to the concept of ethnomusicology; experiencing, understanding, and interpreting a diverse range of music within its cultural context. Global Music exposes students to the creative and musical possibilities that exist beyond the bounds of contemporary Western music.

## TRIMESTER 6 - Bachelor only units

### SELF DIRECTED PROJECT

→ Techniques and Styles\*

Students will develop the skills to conceive, organise, manage, and deliver a self-directed project. This is an invaluable experience, directly transferable to CD creation, gig and event presentation, grant application, and other music business activities. The project will result in twenty minutes of recorded music that represents the culmination of the student's development as an artist through the degree. The final delivery of the recording will be online, complete with a basic electronic press kit.

### PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION 2

→ Ensemble Performance\*\*

Students will prepare an original composition in a contemporary popular music genre with their ensemble group. This arrangement must demonstrate an awareness of the differentiated roles of the ensemble components.

### AUSTRALIAN MUSIC

→ Music History and Analysis

This subject will enable students to develop an understanding of the heritage of Australian music. Starting with an exploration of Australian Indigenous music and culture, the subject will follow the growth of an Australian musical identity from the convict and colonial eras through to music-making in the contemporary globalised world.

### STUDIO ARRANGING

→ Harmony and Aural Studies

In Studio Arranging, previous skills developed are applied to the construction of DAW arrangements for digital delivery. Students create and notate scores to be heard, analysed, and discussed within a lab environment. Writing and arranging for instruments not commonly played at Collarts will be emphasised.

### GROUP PROJECT

→ Industry Awareness

In this subject, students work across degree programs and areas of specialization to plan and execute a collaborative project. Students will work with a mentor who will provide guidance and advice as students propose, plan, and execute their project.

### WRITING FOR THE SCREEN

→ Harmony and Aural Studies

In Writing for the Screen, students will construct DAW arrangements for digital delivery, responding and relating to on-screen imagery from film, television, and gaming. Students are introduced to the heritage of screen composition and the technical requirements of screen composition, and in response create music works to be heard, analysed and discussed.

### PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO OR INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

→ Industry Awareness

This subject is to be completed in the last trimester of every student's academic career at Collarts and aims to build on all skills and knowledge previously acquired throughout the course. Music Students may select from creating a professional portfolio to accompany their work or complete an industry placement in their field of choice.

**\*Techniques and Styles** is a series of six subjects throughout the course designed to develop vocal and instrumental knowledge and skills in contemporary music performance. The subject combines technical development, interpretive and stylistic knowledge, and reflective development in three weekly classes:

**1. A TECHNICAL CLASS 'TECH LESSON'** developing technical skills on a principal instrument or voice through lessons with an instrumental or vocal specialist.

**2. A SEMINAR CLASS** listed above, will extend students' knowledge and abilities within that subject's topic.

**3. A MASTERCLASS WORKSHOP** a chosen stream providing students with an opportunity to apply their technical skills and develop musical awareness in groups of either Songwriters, Instrumentalists, or Vocalists:

→ Songwriting

This workshop uses a combination of lectures and workshoping songwriting exercises to develop students' skills including harmonic construction, lyric writing, melodic style, song form, and arranging. The Songwriting Workshop will reinforce and contextualize the music theory and live performance elements students are learning in correlating subjects in songwriting and original artist framework.

→ Instrumental

This workshop is designed to develop students' awareness, experience, and abilities within an instrumental setting. A diverse repertoire of instrumental compositions provides a platform where students workshop their skills in improvisation, and mastery of different concepts in feel and time and explore group dynamics and interaction.

→ Vocal

Vocal Workshop develops students' skills across all aspects of vocal performance: breathing, tone development, ensemble, sight-reading, warmup techniques, stagecraft, the psychology of performance, microphone technique, and presentation are all given close focus. Students also study and develop skills in harmony singing via a range of choir repertoire that encompasses gospel, soul, pop, funk, and other contemporary styles.

**\*\*The Ensemble Performance** unit has two components, Ensemble Rehearsal and Performance Forum.

**Ensemble Rehearsals** are performance classes structured to advance students' understanding and ability to perform live and communicate effectively. Students participate in weekly scheduled rehearsals with an ensemble leader.

**Performance Forum**, a weekly 2-hour class, students perform with their ensemble and receive critique and feedback. In addition to receiving feedback, students will have the opportunity to provide constructive comments to develop critical analysis and reflection on their peers' performance. Performance Forum allows students to experience performance demands such as technical preparation, stagecraft, set-up, and visual presentation skills.