Music BTEC - Performing

Course Description:

The Pearson BTEC Extended Certificate in Music Performance is aimed at students looking to develop their skills as a performer in popular music genres. This course has a high level of independence and teamwork, and students are encouraged to develop personal styles as performers and composers and to work collaboratively with others to achieve practical objectives.

Qualifications Required:

Applicants should be able to demonstrate a good level of performance ability. Typically this will be demonstrated by a Grade 5 in GCSE Music or a music performance exam (ABRSM or similar) of Grade 4 or higher, but for students without formal qualifications suitability can be assessed through audition. Experience as a composer/songwriter is not essential but will be advantageous, as will some level of familiarity with music theory.

Aims of the Course:

- Develop independence and self-directed study
- Widen knowledge of music through exploration of musical styles from a variety of genres
- Develop performing skills: create individual interpretations of musical repertoire, demonstrating technical and expressive control and an understanding of style and context
- Develop theory and composition skills: show understanding of melody, harmony, texture and use of music technology to create compositions and arrangements
- Explore typical roles within the music industry, looking at the processes needed to create live music performance and developing the organisation and financial skills needed to be successful in the industry

Future Prospects:

Further study opportunities can include degrees in Music Peformance, Composition, Technology or Management. Music qualifications are highly sought-after by a huge range of higher education courses and graduate careers (eg Law, Consultancy, Recruitment)

- Music performance
- Songwriter/arranger
- Film/Computer game composition and recording
- Sound engineer (live sound/recording studio)
- Radio and Television
- Armed forces specialising in Music
- Education
- Music management
- Music Therapy
- Instrumental design, development and manufacture

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Features of the Course:

- Develop performing skills: students are provided with a weekly 30 minute lesson in their first instrument to support with this
- Broaden musical experiences and interests through listening to and performing a wide variety of music from different styles and genres
- Develop as effective independent learners and musicians, working with other students, organising rehearsals and working towards self-defined objectives
- Explore typical composition and recording studio processes, working with industry-standard computer software in our new Music Tech room to create recordings and compositions

BTEC Components:

Unit 1 – Practical Music Theory and Harmony
Assessment is delivered as coursework, consisting of an analysis of the principles of music theory and a portfolio of composition exercises, including one full arrangement of an existing song

Unit 2 – Professional Practice in the Music Industry
An exploration of the different roles within the music industry, including venue and artist management, event organisation, online marketing and publicity. This culminates in an extended project, assessed in exam conditions.

Unit 3 – Ensemble Performance
The biggest Unit of the course, students work as a group to develop performance skills and to prepare a final performance of three songs, showcasing a variety of different genres and performance techniques.

A choice of one of four optional Units, all of which encourage students to develop their individual specialisms further:
Unit 4: Composing Music
Unit 5: Music Performance Session Styles
Unit 6: Solo Performance
Unit 7: Improvisation

Methods of Assessment:

Unit 1, and Optional Unit – assessed as NEA
Unit 2 – Final Assignment, completed in exam conditions
Unit 3 – Performance recording and supporting work, externally assessed