

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester



MUSIC AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER OFFER HOLDER GUIDE



CONTENTS



- 3 Our Department
- 4 Resident Ensembles
- 5 Our Facilities: The Martin Harris Centre
- 6 Our Facilities: NOVARS Research Centre
- 7 Hear From Our Students
- 8 Performance Opportunities
- 9 Music in the City
- 10 After Your Degree: Postgraduate Study & Careers
- 11 After Your Degree: Alumni Spotlights



OUR DEPARTMENT

- Centred around performance, composition and research, the degree offers an unmatched combination of a **comprehensive academic programme** and a specialist education in **practical music-making**.
- You will receive an exceptional, **well-rounded** music education from **distinguished academic staff** including five full-time composers, world-leading researchers, standout instrumental and vocal teachers as well as internationally-recognised guest artists.
- You will be joining a **welcoming community** with students from around the world and countless opportunities to make friends through activities organised by the department and music society. You'll also benefit from support from older students through our **peer-assisted student support scheme**.
- We offer a **flexible degree**, with no compulsory modules after first year, allowing you to tailor the course to your areas of interest with a diverse range of modules covering 500 years.
- You can also explore your interests outside of music, with 20 credits of **free choice units** available at each year of study.



[Click here to explore the department's diverse subject specialisms!](#)



5th best university in the UK for Music and Drama

Complete University Guide, 2026



35th best university in the world

QS World Rankings, 2026



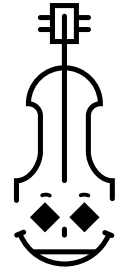
22nd most international university in the world

Times Higher Education, 2026

RESIDENT ENSEMBLES

Learn from and work with our incredible resident ensembles, including string quartet the Quatuor Danel, in masterclasses and workshops

The Quatuor Danel have been leading the way in the global music scene for the past 30 years. As artist-in-residence since 2005, they value their role as mentors to young musicians at Manchester. Our students enjoy an unparalleled learning experience with the opportunity to be taught by and watch the work of world-class musicians.



Watch the videos below to hear more about Quatuor Danel's prized role at Manchester:

Introducing the Quatuor Danel and their student-led workshops



The Quatuor Danel meet the University of Manchester's symphony orchestra in rehearsal



Read more about our resident ensembles here!

OUR FACILITIES: THE MARTIN HARRIS CENTRE

Our outstanding facilities will not only support your learning, but open up new possibilities.

Watch a tour of the Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama



or take a virtual tour [here!](#)

The £8.2 million building has two dedicated performance spaces:

- The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall, seating up to 350 people, with stage large enough to accommodate a full symphony orchestra.
- John Thaw Studio Theatre, seating around 100 people, used for a wide range of performances.



The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall



The John Thaw Studio Theatre

Students also have access to fantastic practising facilities and equipment:

- Over 30 practice rooms (including 13 with a piano) and specialist pods, as well as an additional dedicated keyboard and percussion room
- Practice rooms have a harpsichord, chamber organ, fortepiano, square piano and a Javanese gamelan
- The department owns a collection of early musical instruments which include Renaissance recorders, crumhorns, cornetti and viols
- Students in the Baroque orchestra are one of the very few in the UK to have access to a complete set of reproduction Baroque instruments

OUR FACILITIES: NOVARS RESEARCH CENTRE

The University of Manchester is home to the award-winning NOVARS research centre for electroacoustic composition, sound art and computer music.

The NOVARS research centre specialises in:

- Interactive music and media
- Audification
- AI for music
- Spatial audio
- Electroacoustic composition
- Game-audio
- Locative-audio social entrepreneurship with a focus on environmental sustainability

We have an international community of researchers, students and musicians, and links across the world through NOVARS projects and events.



Undergraduate students can enjoy the cutting-edge suite of computer music studios through modules such as Fixed Media Electroacoustic Composition and Interactive Media Composition Environments.



[Read more about NOVARS here!](#)

HEAR FROM OUR STUDENTS

“ I decided to study music at Manchester because of the diverse range of modules, weekly lunchtime concerts featuring professional musicians, and the opportunity to be part of many ensembles and activities in MUMS (Manchester University Music Society), including going on tour. In terms of the city itself, Manchester has a diverse music scene, which is great for exploring both classical and popular music.



I've learnt so much from every module, but my favourites are Musical Notation and Solo Performance. Musical Notation is so different from what I previously encountered in music. We looked at the early notation of music – mensural notation and lute tablature – and learnt how to transcribe these to modern conventions. My teachers for Solo Performance have taught me so much and are really encouraging. The Music Department's teachers are all very experienced, for example, performing with orchestras like the Hallé and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra.

One of the most memorable performances I've done was with the University's Symphony Orchestra in the second week of first year. It was my first time playing in a symphony orchestra, playing with a choir, and learning performance repertoire in one week. This year, I'm also taking part in managing concerts as Concert Manager and Outreach Orchestra Co-ordinator in MUMS.

”

Hannah, a second-year MusB Music student from Hong Kong

[Read the rest of Hannah's blog here!](#)



Explore other student blogs to find out more about life as a Music student at Manchester!

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES



With over 100 concerts and events each year, performance is at the centre of everything we do.

Manchester University Music Society (MUMS) is the largest student-led music society in the country with around 700 members, and holds around 50 concerts a year, among their many other events.

You'll have the chance to be a part of a range of auditioned and non-auditioned ensembles:

- Symphony Orchestra
- Chamber Orchestra
- Big Band
- Wind Orchestra
- String Orchestra
- Brass Band
- Opera
- Jazz ensemble

As well as MUMS, the Choral Programme offers the chance for students to perform at amazing venues in Manchester and around the world.

The University's Choral Programme is comprised of three choirs:

- University of Manchester Chorus, one of the UK's largest choral societies, which performs twice a year in the historic Whitworth Hall
- Ad Solem, a student-run auditioned chamber choir who have appeared on BBC radio multiple times
- The Cosmo Singers, an auditioned mixed-voice choir performing alone and alongside the Chorus

MUMS and the Choral Programme have incredible opportunities to perform abroad, with recent trips to Belgium, Germany, Poland and Spain.

Aspiring conductors can learn from our own professional conductor, Robert Guy, through the university's conducting programme, and sharpen their skills directing in Ad Solem and The Cosmo Singers.



Read more about performance [here!](#)

MUSIC IN THE CITY

Manchester has a diverse and thriving music scene. With more professional music-making than any UK city outside of London and a rich cultural heritage, there is no better place to study and enjoy music.

Here's some of what Manchester has to offer:

- Three professional orchestras: The Hallé, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Manchester Camerata
- Internationally recognised institutions such as Stoller Hall and the Bridgewater Hall
- Amazing music venues, including the multi-award-winning Band on the Wall (with its Gospel and Soul Choir, and Folk and World Choir), the Albert Hall and HOME
- Incredible festivals: Manchester International Festival, Manchester Jazz Festival, Manchester Folk Festival
- The Henry Watson Music Library at Manchester Central Library



Manchester Jazz Festival



Manchester Camerata



Manchester International Festival



Albert Hall



The Hallé at Bridgewater Hall



Band on the Wall



AFTER YOUR DEGREE: POSTGRADUATE STUDY & CAREERS

If you want to continue your studies, our diverse selection of **postgraduate music programmes**, in composition, musicology and performance, allows you to specialise in a particular area of music and develop your expertise.

When ready to embark on your career, our Music MusB graduates are equipped for a variety of career paths. Our **alumni destinations** include:

- Conducting
- Composing
- Teaching
- Fundraising
- Arts administration
- Advertising
- Journalism
- Publishing
- Project management
- Civil service
- Healthcare management
- Law



The degree prepares students for more than just a career in music, providing valuable **transferable skills** and experiences. Our graduates are innovative, adaptable, collaborative, and self-driven, with strong leadership abilities, making them ready to succeed in a wide range of industries.

Listen to our alumni, Ben and Ellie, discuss where a music degree from Manchester can take you!



“ Those who apply from the university often come to interview **well-prepared** and perhaps **more in touch** with the work that we do than students from other local institutions. They have **real-life experiences**, for example with the **Outreach Orchestra**, and the **level of autonomy** which the students have as well as the **roles which they can take on**, provides excellent experience for potential **future career paths in arts administration and other areas of the performing arts.** ”

Clare Webster, Education and Outreach Manager at The Hallé

AFTER YOUR DEGREE: ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Leo Geyer



A 2013 graduate and multi-award-winning composer, conductor, presenter, and founder of **Constella Music**

Leo began conducting as a student at Manchester and has gone on to conduct at the Royal Opera House, BBC Concert Orchestra, and English National Opera.

Jack McCartney



A 2019 graduate and composer

Jack worked as an assistant music editor on hit film 'Wonka' and orchestrated the music for the trailer of Disney+ Star Wars series 'Ahsoka'. Listen to some of his work [here!](#)

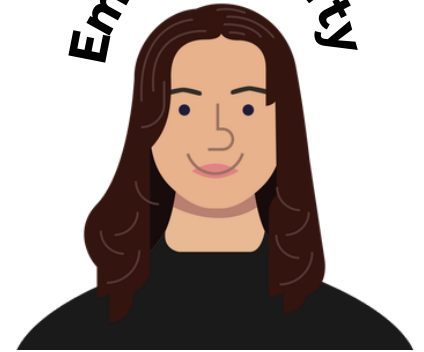
Ben Horrigan



A 2012 graduate and assistant content producer

Ben produces exclusive content for the Blue Peter website, which can include anything from video clips to quizzes to online chats.

Emma Doherty



A 2017 graduate and stage director and practitioner

Emma works in a variety of different roles as a director, assistant director, musician and project manager.



Explore more music graduate profiles [here!](#)



Contact ug-music@manchester.ac.uk



Frequently Asked Questions from music offer holders



Read news from the music department



Explore the music department YouTube channel



Check out the music department on Instagram

The University of Manchester
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL
United Kingdom

Royal Charter Number RC000797
08.21

Follow us

