

DIME **ONLINE**

POWERED BY DETROIT INSTITUTE OF MUSIC EDUCATION

BA(Hons) Creative Songwriting

FALMOUTH
UNIVERSITY

MAKE MUSIC YOUR LIFE

BA(Hons) Creative Songwriting

Course Information

Full-Time Study (Two-Year Accelerated Mode)

The following overview shows the modules at each academic level a full-time student will be undertaking in the two-year accelerated mode of study.

YEAR	STUDY BLOCK	MODULES			LEVEL
1	1	Creative Subject Matter & Lyrics DIMEO-S110 20 CREDITS	Songwriting Methodology DIMEO-S120 20 CREDITS	The UK and European Music Industry DIMEO-015 20 CREDITS	4
	2	Developing Subject Matter & Lyrics DIMEO-S140 20 CREDITS	Chart Writing DIMEO-S150 20 CREDITS	The International Music Industry DIMEO-010 20 CREDITS	
	3	Arrangement Skills DIMEO-S210 20 CREDITS	Co-Writing DIMEO-S220 20 CREDITS	Principles of Record Production DIMEO-020 20 CREDITS	5
2	1	Writing for Artists DIMEO-S240 20 CREDITS	Writing for Film & TV DIMEO-S250 20 CREDITS	Writing for Games DIMEO-S260 20 CREDITS	6
	2	Songwriting Workbook DIMEO-S320 30 CREDITS	Publishing & Copyright Laws DIMEO-030 30 CREDITS		
	3	Professional Practice Portfolio DIMEO-035 20 CREDITS	Songwriting Portfolio DIMEO-S330 40 CREDITS		

Part-Time Study (Four-Year Mode)

The following overview shows the modules at each academic level a part-time student will be undertaking in the four-year mode of study.

YEAR	STUDY BLOCK	MODULES	LEVEL
1	1	Creative Subject Matter & Lyrics DIMEO-S110 20 CREDITS	4
	2	Songwriting Methodology DIMEO-S120 20 CREDITS	
	3	Developing Subject Matter & Lyrics DIMEO-S140 20 CREDITS	
2	1	The UK and European Music Industry DIMEO-015 20 CREDITS	5
	2	Chart Writing DIMEO-S150 20 CREDITS	
	3	The International Music Industry DIMEO-010 20 CREDITS	
3	1	Arrangement Skills DIMEO-S210 20 CREDITS	6
	2	Principles of Record Production DIMEO-020 20 CREDITS	
	3	Writing for Artists DIMEO-S240 20 CREDITS	
4	1	Co-Writing DIMEO-S220 20 CREDITS	6
	2	Writing for Film & TV DIMEO-S250 20 CREDITS	
	3	Writing for Games DIMEO-S260 20 CREDITS	
5	1	Songwriting Workbook DIMEO-S320 30 CREDITS	6
	2	Songwriting Portfolio DIMEO-S330 40 CREDITS	
	3	Publishing & Copyright Laws DIMEO-030 30 CREDITS	
6	1	Professional Practice Portfolio DIMEO-035 20 CREDITS	6
	2		
	3		

Modules

Stage 1: Level 4

Creating Subject Matter and Lyrics

Great songs are usually built on the lyrics and the subject matter. In this module we investigate the conventions of lyric writing and the use of structure. You will create much of the raw material for your writing and be encouraged to do so fearlessly. Additionally, you will be challenged to write at pace, perhaps producing many more lyrics and titles than you are used to. We will also discuss quality control and editing so that you can refine your lyric material in preparation for writing complete songs.

Songwriting Methodology

Songs are not always written from a lyric or title first. The point of this module is to share with you the almost limitless variety in the writing process. Many young writers can get stuck in a rut, finding they produce one-dimensional material and running out of inspiration. We can use a tempo, a key, a visual cue (e.g. a painting) or an overheard conversation; any one of these could be starting points to stimulate the creative process. Sometimes the process can be free and artistically driven; other times, it can be more formal and the process or craft might take over. You will learn how the great hit writers of today work, from classic pop to modern experimental work, from full arrangements to minimal top line melody and lyric compositions. This module will transform your understanding of the writing process.

Developing Subject Matter and Lyrics

Developing Subject Matter and Lyrics builds on the work done previously in Creating Subject Matter and Lyrics and continues with the consolidation of specialist skills, techniques and methodologies for generating lyrics. The content of the module will play a key role in the continued development of your artistic voice and in providing more refined lyrics and titles for your developing portfolio.

The Domestic Music Industry

A comprehensive overview of the European Music Industry, this module will explain how record companies, publishers, managers, agents, writers, artists and merchandising interact in the modern age. You will also examine sponsorship and product placement, discovering how artists and managers organise these income streams into a coherent business in the digital age. The module will incorporate the use of case study research on important artists, showing how they organise their commercial affairs in the UK and Europe.

Chart Writing

Not to be confused with writing pop songs aimed at the top forty, this module actually deals with the business of score writing. Rather than using the specialist skill of standard notation, the technique of 'bars and beats' chart writing will be used, accompanied by detailed arrangement notes and reference material. In this way, we can produce a chart format that would be usable and acceptable in most professional situations. You will examine examples of charts of this description taken from the sets of live TV shows, studio sessions and live tours.

The International Music Industry

The International Music Industry builds on the previous study of the domestic music industry by examining the rapidly changing online developments for record companies and artists. The module will cover the increasingly diverse income streams evolving due to interaction between new mediums and formats. Case study research on important artists will show how they exploit digital formats and organise their commercial affairs worldwide.

Stage 2: Level 5

Arrangement Skills

Through the study of classic song arrangements you will gain the understanding and vocabulary necessary to transform your rough song format into a full arrangement. You will have the authority to direct a band and manage your own material, being able to engage a producer, musical director or band member as an equal at every stage of the song's journey from page, to stage to studio. You will learn about the essential components of a song as you pick apart the hooks, chord sequences, melodies and riffs within the arrangements of classic works from the 50's and 60's to the present day. Songwriters are not expected to read music (although you may learn if you wish), but this study will enable you to describe exactly what you want to hear in a clear and communicable way in the most demanding of professional situations on stage and in the studio.

Principles of Record Production

Although the course is focused on creative songwriting, it is also important part that you understand the principles of record production, particularly if you decide to specialise in writing for various pop genres. This module takes over where Arrangement Skills left off, and we have the opportunity to discuss the journey from a finished arrangement in the rehearsal room (or demo) to a master recording. Additionally, the lessons will explore the strategy of completely removing the demo process and producing a fully finished master from the outset of the writing process. You will examine the production on various recordings and draw conclusions on what impact the process has had on the success of these recordings.

Writing For Artists

The specialised realm of writing for the pop market is the focus of this module. In today's industry, this will inevitably include writing for the contestants (successful and otherwise) of the TV talent shows as well as girl groups, boy bands and the contemporary pop solo artists of the day. This is a competitive area to work within, with its own set of conventions and expectations, and is often fraught with political complications. Despite this, many writers have very successful careers in this arena. There is also much to be learned from studying the discipline of pop that can be applied to other genres.

Co-Writing

Co-writing is a specialist skill, and many successful writers do nothing else. You will be asked to produce a wide variety of material as you develop your skills through the collaborative process. Additionally, you will learn how to prepare for a successful co-writing session and how to ensure that these projects go smoothly. Writers will be able to upload their co-written work on the 'My Studio' area of the website for feedback from tutors and peers.

Writing For Film and TV

Writing For Film and TV explores the role of the composer and the range of material and sync opportunities available in contemporary media. You will deliver songs and compositions for a range of briefs, each of which will be a real-world example taken from a film, TV show or advertisement. With a focus on career development, you will examine networking, the process of building a profile as a composer and the effectiveness of online listings such as Sonic Bids and Broadjam.

Writing for Games

Writing For Games exposes students to the gaming industry and the rapidly growing opportunities within it for the professional songwriter. Gaming has grown substantially in recent years and now employs significant numbers of full-time and freelance writers to produce the audio required. The content of this audio will range from basic sound effects through to big budget fully scored orchestral compositions. The module will explore the myriad of opportunities available to a songwriter/composer in the gaming industry and how to adopt a writing style that is relevant to this industry. Additionally, you will explore the role of online listings, agencies and networking in this competitive but exciting industry.

Stage 3: Level 6

Publishing and Copyright Law

Publishing and Copyright Law provides you with a detailed look at the publishing industry and the opportunity to gain an understanding of the major income streams available to songwriters. The module will examine the content and terms of various types of publishing deals – and how to protect your song rights through knowledge of copyright law. You will also explore other scenarios such as songwriting splits and how to agree them without conflict.

Songwriting Workbook

Songwriting Workbook provides you with the opportunity to create and develop a portfolio of raw materials for songwriting under the supervision of your tutor. You will be asked to record your progress, the raw songwriting material and comment critically on your learning and development. You will upload your material to the 'My Studio' area of the website for informal and formal feedback from tutors and peers as you develop your workbook.

Songwriting Portfolio

This is your opportunity to present a mature, well-crafted body of work that demonstrates how you have refined your talent and skills. You will produce several complete songs with full charts, arrangement notes, lyrics and critical appraisal. You may have co-writes and song placements that could form part of the portfolio, and any live, recorded or online achievements (including those as part of a band or as a solo artist) can also be included. Don't forget that the flexible nature of the online course will allow you to tour and promote your music while undertaking the programme.

Professional Practice Portfolio

The Professional Practice Portfolio module requires you to research and report on the career opportunities available within your specialist area. You should also comment on how your craft can be contextualised in professional opportunities that will monetise your skills and inspire entrepreneurial practice and artistic excellence. Your Portfolio will also include a personal website and various forms of social media to support your professional work.

Course Fees

DIME ONLINE	2 YEAR, FULL TIME	4 YEAR, PART TIME
BA (Hons) Creative Music Performance – Pursuing Excellence in JTC Guitar	£ 4,620 /yr	£ 3,620 /yr

Student Loans for UK/EU residents are available for all DIME ONLINE degree courses, subject to eligibility criteria.

Students in the US are not currently eligible for Financial Aid to study with DIME ONLINE. However, our affiliate schools in Denver & Detroit can accept Financial Aid for their campus-based degrees.

Alternatively, it may be possible to arrange a payment plan and spread the cost across the academic year. For further details contact the **Finance Office on: 0203 388 8903** or **email: finance@dime-online.org**.

If you would like to apply to study with DIME ONLINE, please contact aapplications@dime-online.org stating which degree program you are interested in. A member of the team will be in touch with you to get your application started.

Contact details:

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