



**L-Università ta' Malta**  
School of Performing Arts

Department of  
Music Studies

## **Department of Music Studies Student Handbook**

**2023-24**

**Please note that the information contained in this online handbook maybe subject to modification during the academic year. Students should always check the latest version**

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## **SECTION A: GENERAL INFORMATION**

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### **Introduction**

The Music Studies Department within the School of Performing Arts offers a range of undergraduate courses, as well as postgraduate studies in musicology and ethnomusicology, composition, and performance. Students are tutored by a team of specialists in their respective fields. All this is delivered in a dynamic environment that encourages musical creativity and practice whilst, at the same time, providing ample opportunities for the combination of these with an array of scholarly interests. Moreover, the Department supports ensembles open to students coming from other Faculties and Departments. These include the University Vocal Ensemble and the University Wind Ensemble.

Our students are also encouraged to benefit from courses offered by the other Departments within the School of Performing Arts. This helps students adopt an interdisciplinary approach to the study of music which in itself opens up more opportunities in terms of career. A degree in music is the key to several job opportunities. These include jobs in teaching, the recording industry, professional orchestral playing, a freelance life as a professional composer or performer, cultural management and administration, and job opportunities in the entertainment sector and the media just to mention a few. In addition, a degree in music is sometimes considered an asset by employers seeking formal evidence of professional training in creativity from prospective employees.

### **Academic Staff**

- Dr Frederick Aquilina
- Dr Max Erwin (Head of Department)
- Dr Jeremy Coleman
- Dr Mariella Cassar-Cordina
- Prof. Philip Ciantar (School of Performing Arts Director)
- Ms Cathy Lawlor
- Mr Dominic Galea
- Dr John Galea
- Mr Mark Gauci
- Dr Rebecca Hall
- Prof. Michael Laus
- Ms Claire Massa
- Mr Godfrey Mifsud
- Dr Albert Pace
- Dr Reuben Pace
- Dr Veronique Vella
- Dr Christine Zerafa
- Dr Joanne Camilleri

## **Administrative Staff**

- Mr Stefan Sacco  
School of Performing Arts, Administrative Officer.  
Email: stefan.sacco@um.edu.mt
- Ms Cassandra Xerry  
Department of Music Studies Secretary.  
Email: cassandra.xerry@um.edu.mt

## **The Board of Studies in Music**

- Dr Max Erwin (Chairperson)
- Prof. Philip Ciantar
- Prof. Michael Laus
- Dr John Galea
- Dr Jeremy Coleman

## **Who to See in the Departmental Staff**

### **Administrative Roles**

Head of Department: Dr Max Erwin

Research Coordinator: Dr Jeremy Coleman

Undergraduate Coordinator: Dr Max Erwin

Postgraduate Coordinator: Dr John Galea

Teaching and Learning Coordinator: Dr Jeremy Coleman

Student Experience Coordinator: Prof Philip Ciantar

Public Engagement and Relations Coordinator: Dr John Galea and Prof Philip Ciantar

Internationalisation and Erasmus Coordinator: Dr John Galea

Ethics Representative: Prof. Michael Laus

MATSEC Coordinator: Dr John Galea

## **IT Facilities and Assistance**

Students are expected to become familiar and use effectively IT facilities, such as the VLE and eSims. For more information on the use and applicability of these please read carefully material provided at <http://www.um.edu.mt/itservices/students>

## **Communication**

### **Emails**

Please make sure to check regularly your University of Malta emails at your personal UM mailbox as all emails and updates will be sent to this address.

You may find lecturers' contact details by using the following engine search <http://www.um.edu.mt/search>

### **Notice Boards**

Kindly check regularly any notices placed on the Departmental notice boards situated next to the Music Rooms (OH 124 and OH 127).

### **School of Performing Arts Website**

The School of Performing Arts website (at <http://www.um.edu.mt/performingarts>) contains important information regarding ongoing activities of the School, as well as useful material such as timetables, list of optional study units, and registration forms. Students are expected to visit this website on regular basis in order to keep themselves updated with any changes and announcements. From this website students may also access the Music Studies page at <http://www.um.edu.mt/performingarts/music>. Students are also encouraged to visit the Music Studies Department Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/uom.musicstudies>.

## **SECTION B: USE OF DEPARTMENTAL FACILITES**

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### **The Use of the Music Rooms OH 124 and OH 127**

Kindly note that all bookings for Rooms OH124 and OH127 should be submitted to the Departmental Secretary at least **1 week** in advance.

One-Off-Booking forms for Students and Staff may be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.um.edu.mt/performingarts/musicbookingstaffstud>

(Please note that no bookings are available after 6.00pm)

The booking form for Visiting Clients and School Events may be accessed through the following link: <https://www.um.edu.mt/performingarts/musicbookingvisiting>

Persons wishing to make use of the music rooms must estimate well the number of hours needed, as they will not be allowed to use the room beyond the time specified in their booking form.

List of Instruments and Equipment available in rooms OH124 and OH127:

- Grand Piano
- Vibraphone (only in OH127)
- Harpsichord (only in OH124)
- Monitor
- DVD Player
- Video Player
- Speakers

The school retains the right to refuse or cancel any booking for the above-mentioned room.

### **Use and Booking of the School of Performing Arts Spaces**

#### **VCT Valletta Campus Theatre**

The booking form for Students and School of Performing Arts staff may be accessed by following the link below:

<https://www.um.edu.mt/performingarts/mitpbookingstaffstud>

The booking form for Visiting Clients and School Events may be accessed by following this link:

<https://www.um.edu.mt/performingarts/mitpbookingvisitingevents>

#### **Dance Studios (San Gwann)**

The Dance Studios may be booked by sending an email to Ms Priscilla Grima on [priscilla.grima@um.edu.mt](mailto:priscilla.grima@um.edu.mt)

## **SECTION C: LEARNING AND TEACHING**

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### **B.Mus(Hons) Programme**

Bachelor of Music (Honours). Kindly see programme and course description at <http://www.um.edu.mt/performingarts/overview/UBMUSHFT-2017-8-0>

### **B.A. Programmes**

All Undergraduate B.A. programmes in music are available at

<http://www.um.edu.mt/performingarts/music/courses/undergraduate>.

Please make sure to follow the appropriate link/s applicable to your course.

### **Postgraduate Studies**

At Postgraduate level, the Music Department offers both Masters and Doctorate degrees in musicology, ethnomusicology, composition and performance. These can be taken on both part-time and full-time basis.

### **M.Mus Programmes**

For details concerning the structure and content of the M.Mus programme of studies for historical musicology, ethnomusicology, composition and performance (both full-time and part-time) kindly see <http://www.um.edu.mt/performingarts/music/courses/postgraduate>.

### **D.Mus and PhD Programmes**

For details concerning the structure and content of the D.Mus and Ph.D programmes kindly see <http://www.um.edu.mt/performingarts/music/courses/postgraduate>.

### **General Regulations, Bye-Laws and Procedures**

For all general statutes and general regulations see <http://www.um.edu.mt/registrar/regulations/general>.

For all School of Performing Arts statutes, regulations, and Bye-Laws see <http://www.um.edu.mt/registrar/regulations/faculties/performingarts>.

### **Academic Progress and Opportunities**

#### **Bachelor of Music (Honours)**

In the second year of their studies, students in the B.Mus(Hons) programme will be required to choose one of the following streams: musicology and ethnomusicology, performance or composition.

Once the student has chosen one of the above streams s/he will be automatically binding himself/herself to pursue studying that stream during the second and third year of the course. During the second and third years of the course students in the BMus (Hons) programme must take all the compulsory study-units of his/her chosen stream of study. In addition, these students are required to register for a number of elective study-units which may be taken from the elective units on offer.

#### **Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Music**

At the end of the first year, students who attain a 65% average (or above) may opt to follow the Honours degree in Music.

#### **Dissertation Supervision Reports**

Students following *both undergraduate and postgraduate studies* have to fill in a report following each supervision session. This report should be submitted *by the student* to the Music Studies Secretary after each supervision meeting.

## **Erasmus**

Students are encouraged to go on Erasmus as this will help them attain a good experience abroad and establish professional networking. This should preferably take place in the second year of their studies.

## **Research Seminars and Workshops**

All students are expected to attend for seminars and workshops organised by the School of Performing Arts. These should provide them with the opportunity to widen their academic preparation and learn how to work in an interdisciplinary context with other disciplines within the School.

## **SECTION D: SUBMISSION OF WORK**

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### **Dissertation Word Counts**

**BA (Hons):** between 10,000–12,000 words, excluding Notes, Bibliography, and Appendices.

### **B.Mus (Hons)**

Students majoring in Composition:

Portfolio + Commentary (between 4,000–6,000 words, excluding Notes, Bibliography, and Appendices.)

Students majoring in Performance:

Performance + Commentary (between 4,000–6,000 words, excluding Notes, Bibliography, and Appendices.)

Students majoring in Musicology/Ethnomusicology:

Edition + Critical Commentary (between 8,000–10,000 excluding Notes, Bibliography, and Appendices.)

Or

Dissertation on a topic in musicology (between 10,000–12,000 words excluding Notes, Bibliography, and Appendices.)

Or

Dissertation in Ethnomusicology: between 10,000–12,000 words, excluding Notes, Bibliography, and Appendices.

### **Submission of Work**

All physical assignments, portfolios and dissertations should be handed to the Departmental Secretary before or on the agreed deadline date. Late submissions will be graded as either D (maximum grade) or F (minimum grade). Following the submission of the dissertation and/or portfolio all students (undergraduate and postgraduate) will also have a viva voce examination.



For referencing systems, text conventions and other related matters of presentation see <https://www.um.edu.mt/performingarts/music/musicstudiesresources>.

**Student Conduct: Regulations and Procedures**

For information regarding plagiarism, Turnitin and other useful University guidelines see <http://www.um.edu.mt/registrar/student-conduct>