

BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance & Songwriting

Introduction Pack

Acceptance Packs – Course Information

Course: BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance & Songwriting

Course Welcome/ Introduction

Congratulations on accepting your place on the BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance & Songwriting course and welcome to a network of music students, educators and industry professionals. This course is designed for the performer songwriter, developing musical literacy with instrumental and music technology ability so that you can express and capture your songwriting creativity.

You'll become fully immersed in the flourishing BIMM community with plenty of opportunities to collaborate with a diverse range of talented peers. And you will spend a lot of time on stage, too. You will have the chance to play live and perform with your fellow students. Throughout these performances, you'll receive expert guidance from our BIMM lecturers. Our lecturers who guide you through your studies are all experienced and highly sought-after professionals with invaluable expertise and experience that will help you progress through the course.

You'll become equipped you with the skills and drive required to be successful in any musical situation and through study of the Curriculum Spine modules, you will be supported in continuous development of your academic and graduate skills, creating your best work as you emerge into the industry.

Essential equipment and software

What you'll need to bring with you:

- You will need your instrument:
 - Guitarists/bassists should bring their instrument and a lead to class.
 - Drummers need only bring sticks to class. If it is not suitable to have drums at your student accommodation, we recommend investing in practice pads.
 - Vocalists may bring their own microphone to class or use a BIMM provided microphone
- Laptop
- Headphones
- Ear protection
- Writing materials for notetaking and for collecting song Ideas.
- Recording Equipment for capture of Ideas. Elements of your course will teach you how to use more sophisticated software but anything from a recording app on a phone through to Garageband or Reaper software with an audio interface and microphone on your laptop will be ideal for capturing rough Ideas or higher quality demos.

What we will provide upon enrolment

- Microsoft Office 365 Suite
- A BIMM produced e-book containing instruction (through text, illustrations, videos and transcriptions), explanation and tasks for each instrumental discipline and for Music Theory.

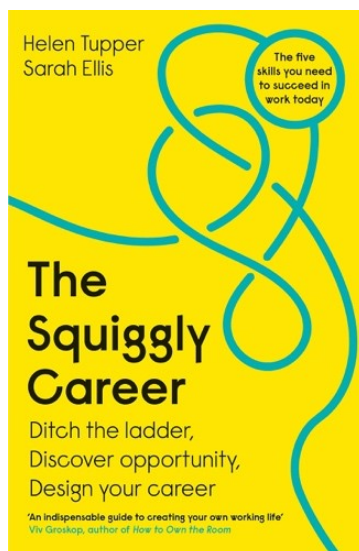
How to prepare to get the most out of your studies

Get a head start with reading for your course

The Course Leaders have selected one essential core text for each of your semester one modules. It's worth getting your hands on these in the summer as these are texts that you'll refer to again and again during your studies.

The Squiggly Career by Helen Tupper & Sarah Ellis

Tupper, H. and Ellis, S. (2020) *The Squiggly Career: - Ditch the Ladder, Discover Opportunity, Design Your Career*. London: Penguin.



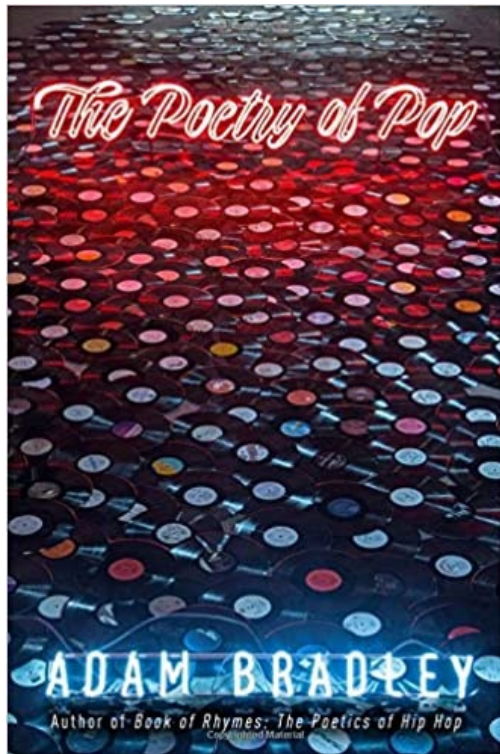
Core text for **The Creative Industries & You 1: Finding Your Path**

This bestselling book is a great place to start your journey into the Creative Industries. The Creative Industries & You modules at BIMM are all about following your passions, even if that means the path to your dream career takes some unexpected turns along the way. The *Squiggly Career* helps to put you in the right mindset for the exciting journey ahead.



The Poetry of Pop by Adam Bradley

Bradley, A (2017). *The Poetry of Pop*. Yale University Press, Yale



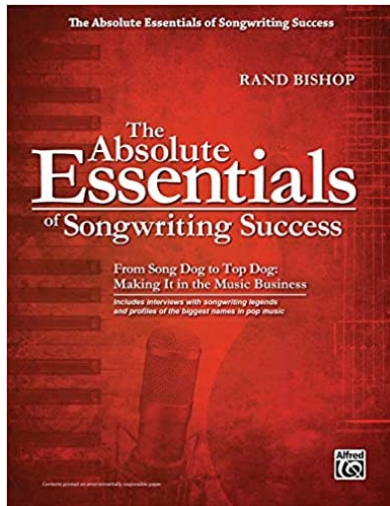
Core Text for **Styles and Genres**

From Tin Pan Alley to the Beatles to Beyonce, "Mr. Bradley skillfully breaks down a century of standards and pop songs into their elements to reveal the interaction of craft and art in composition and performance." (The Wall Street Journal) Encompassing a century of recorded music, this pathbreaking book reveals the poetic artistry of popular songs. Pop songs are music first. They also comprise the most widely disseminated poetic expression of our time. Adam Bradley traces the song lyric across musical genres from early twentieth-century Delta blues to mid-century rock 'n' roll to today's hits.



The Absolute Essentials of Songwriting Success by Rand Bishop

Bishop, Rand. (2010). *The Absolute Essentials of Song Writing Success*. Alfred Music, Van Nuys

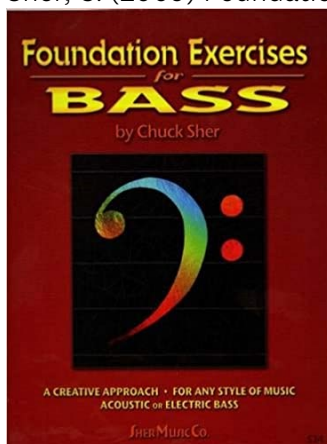


Core text for **Songwriting Techniques**

You want your original songs to be recorded, released, and broadcast. But do you have a realistic plan to make this dream your reality? Author and hit songwriter Rand Bishop draws from 40 years of on-the-job experience while visiting with some of the most-honored song crafters of the last five decades, unveiling a long-term strategy for building a career composing hit songs. The lessons, essays, quotations, and profiles in this book reveal how a song becomes a hit and support the learning from your Songwriting Techniques Module perfectly.

Foundation Exercises for Bass by Chuck Sher

Sher, C. (2009) *Foundation Exercises for Bass*. Petaluma, CA: Sher Music Co.

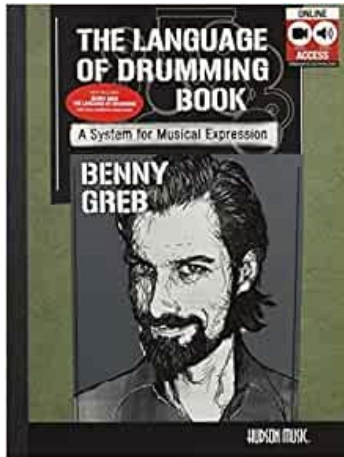


Core text for **Core Instrument Skills (Bass)**

This is a key and comprehensive method book for bass guitarists. It covers all fundamental concepts with lessons and tasks for the development of technique, theory and musicianship.

The Language of Drumming by Benny Greb

Greb, B. (2012). *The Language of Drumming*. 1st ed. Milwaukee: Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation.

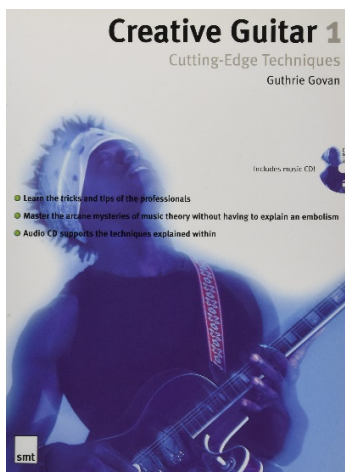


Core text for Core Instrument Skills (Drums)

This method book looks at the development of technique and rhythmic comprehension, to broaden vocabulary and facilitate freedom of musical expression on the drum set.

Creative Guitar 1 by Guthrie Govan

Govan, G. (2002). *Creative Guitar 1*. London: Sanctuary.

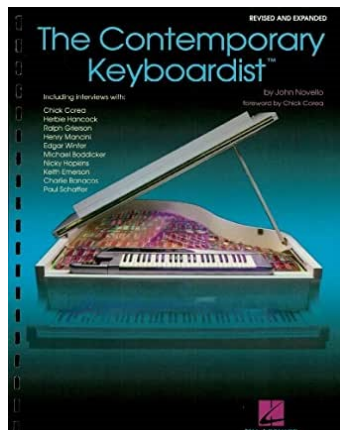


Core text for Core Instrument Skills (Guitar)

This book, the first in a series from world renowned guitarist Guthrie Govan, aims to provide new directions for the developing guitarist to explore his art. It focusses on how you can expand your potential by refining your playing techniques, allowing you to tackle more complex riffs and solos. A great book to supplement, support and expand on the learning you will undertake on the Core Instrument Skills module!

The Contemporary Keyboardist by John Novello

Novello, J (2000) *The Contemporary Keyboardist*. Milwaukee: Hal Leonard Corporation

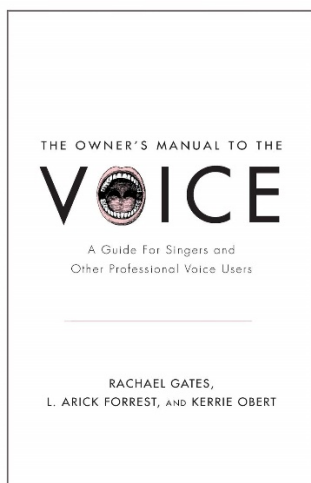


Core text for Core Instrument Skills (Keyboards)

The Contemporary Keyboardist includes interviews and opinion from a range of noteworthy keyboard figures and pioneers as well as advice on musical communication and practice disciplines. The book is also a great reference for the fundamental tools, techniques and concepts of keyboard performance, such as notation, harmony, improvisation and sight reading.

The Owner's Manual to the Voice by Rachel Gates & Kerrie Obert

Gates, R., Forrest, L. and Obert, K., (2013). *The Owner's Manual to The Voice*. Oxford University



Core text for Core Instrument Skills (Vocals)

For the vocal student, learning and understanding the biomechanics of their instrument will be paramount to their vocal health during their studies and as they emerge into a professional career. Beginning with an overview of the vocal anatomy, this book explains potential dangers and disorders for vocalists to be aware of and how to keep singing safely.



Hands-on Music Theory by Richard Wentk

Wentk, R (2014) Hands-On Music Theory. Course Technology



*Core text for **Digital Music***

This music theory book is different to those you might have seen before. It relates to the theory and concepts that exist within contemporary musical styles and has been written to be accessible and relatable to the contemporary musician.

