Creative music technology

Bill Thompson,
Admissions Tutor
Why Surrey for creative music technology?

» Three distinct programmes of study

» Fantastic standards of teaching

» Awarded the highest rating in research

» Strong performance culture

» Pluralist attitude to music

» Collaboration across the arts.
Why Surrey for creative music technology?

» Music ranked 2\textsuperscript{nd} in \textit{Guardian University Guide} 2020

» Gold standard in the Teaching Excellence Framework.
“... to produce flexible, open minded, thinking musicians equipped with the kinds of understanding and ability necessary for employment across today’s diverse range of music-based professions...”
Why study at Surrey?

› Computers and their application
› Creating music, not recording it
› Academic rigour with creative practice
› A response to changing needs.
Programme rationale

» Creative: strategies, approaches and insight
» Theoretical: history and repertoire
» Technical: software and musical analysis
» Professional: music industry and study skills.
Programme structure

» Credit based modular structure
» Balance of compulsory and optional modules
» Over three levels
» Full-time.
CMT BMus (Hons) level 4 - Year 1

Compulsory (75 credits):
» Creating Music with Computers (1A & 1B)
» Sound Design
» Encountering Music History
» Harmony.

Options (45 credits):
» Pathways in Musicianship (A & B)
» Music Project (1A and/or 1B)
» Topic Study (Western classical music)
» Topic Study (Popular music).
CMT BMus (Hons) level 5 - Year 2

Compulsory (45 credits):
» Creating Music with Computers (2A & 2B)
» Composition (2A & 2B).

Options (75 credits):
» Digital Improvisation 1
» Music, Sound, Image
» Harmony 2
» Performance (2A and/or 2B)
» Topic Studies (2A, 2B, 2C)
» Arts Policy & Practice
» Nineteenth-Century Music
» Music Project (2A and/or 2B).
Creative Music Technology BMus (Hons)

Indicative subjects for music projects and topic studies:

» Live Performance Event
» Experimental & Conceptual Music
» Sonification
» Dido and Aeneas
» The Soundscape.

» Jazz Studies
» Screen Music
» Opera
» World Music
» Rock Track Poetics
» African-American Music
» Music, Politics, and Society
» Musical Theatre
» English Music.
CMT BMus (Hons) level 6 – Year 3

Compulsory (45 credits):
» Creating Music with Computers Research Project.

Options (75 credits):
» Compositional Programming (A & B)
» Composition (A & B)
» Digital Improvisation 2
» Creative Collaborations
» Modernism and Postmodernism
» Performance (3A & 3B)
» Music Project (3A & 3B)
» Topic Studies (3A & 3B).
Teaching and assessment

**Teaching:**
» Lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials, online
» Videos, podcasts, blogs.

**Assessment:**
» Two thirds by coursework
» One third by exam.
Professional Training

Integrated into the degree
» Visiting speakers
» Creative practitioners
  • Film composers
  • Computer games specialists
  • Composers for TV and radio
  • Alumni
» Collaborative projects
» Final year CMC Research Project
» Links with Ableton
» Optional Professional Training placement.
Careers

» Staff knowledge base, across a wide range of 20th/21st century music

» Skills in creative and technical skills in sound design, applied music / composition and performance

» Prepared for a wide range of opportunities:
  • creative arts, film & TV, advertising,
  • games industry, new and broadcast media

» The Department has strong industry credentials.
Resources

- Student union, accommodation, etc.
- Library: study support, AV services
- PATS building: recording studios, practice rooms
- Moog sound lab
- Dedicated teaching labs, self-study, edit suites (24/7)
- Music, sound recording, DMA peer group.
What we are looking for in applicants

» Strong musicianship (musical literacy, performing)
» Proven track record in composition (portfolio)
» Exam results (but tariff scores count in clearing)
» The right mindset.
Offers

» A level: ABB (grade A in music or music technology)
» Other routes possible (e.g. BTEC, baccalaureates)
» Musical literacy: ABRSM Grade 5 theory or equivalent
» For instrumental performance modules, Grade 7 or equivalent.
CMT Student Video 2019

https://youtu.be/uofkhuPuYFE