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Cc: [Edward Wickham](#); [Sam Barrett](#); [Lynette Alcantara](#); r.pinel@jesus.cam.ac.uk; [Faculty of Music Graduate](#)
Bcc: [Ian Cross](#)
Subject: MMus Assessment Arrangements 2020
Date: 31 March 2020 16:58:00

Sent on behalf of Prof Ian Cross, Chair of the Music Faculty Board

Dear students,

We hope you are bearing up under the extraordinary circumstances we all now face. A statement from the University about “examinations” next term has now been released, which you should read carefully. This message is to give you details about the arrangements which will apply to the MMus. Everyone will be affected by stress and anxiety about their health and the wellbeing of their loved ones. Many of you will be facing limited internet connectivity and non-ideal working environments. The plans which we put to the University, and which have now been approved, are designed to take all of this into account as far as is possible. We appreciate that, as with normal examinations, there will be individuals whose particular needs may not be catered for by these provisions; they should apply through their Tutor in the usual way to the Examination Access and Mitigation Committee.

Assessment in the MMus has had to be significantly adapted in the light of Covid-19. Where coursework is required, this will be submitted online and a one-month extension has been arranged for all coursework elements.

The skills-based modules (Choral Conducting [Conducting Pathway: Section I], Ensemble Performance [Vocal Pathway: Section III], and Keyboard Skills [Organ Pathway: Section 1]), requiring interaction with other musicians, cannot be substituted in any meaningful way and will not take place. This will result in each candidate completing one less module than originally envisaged.

Where solo performance is required this will be undertaken as outlined below, in the form of a ‘Performance Portfolio’. This now consists of a range of four options, not least because we know that your circumstances are highly divergent; together these now constitute the submission of a Performance Portfolio. The Course Leader will discuss choices with each performer.

Performance Portfolio

The selection of options should be made in consultation with instrumental/vocal teachers and course leaders. You must formally submit your selected options and repertoire/other details for approval by the MMus Course Leader by **5 pm on 28 April**.

This paper comprises 5 options, of which a combination can be submitted. The balance of these elements is to be decided in consultation with the Pathway Coordinator.

1) A video of the candidate’s performance of repertoire from the original submitted programme or alternative repertoire.

Candidates should seek approval for alternative repertoire from the relevant Pathway Coordinator by **5 pm on 21 April**.

The quality of the recording will not be assessed.

2) Video of the candidate's performance of repertoire from the original submitted programme or alternative repertoire.

Candidates should seek approval for alternative repertoire from the relevant Pathway Coordinator by **5 pm on 21 April**.

The quality of the recording will not be assessed.

3) Audio/video recording of between 20 and 30 minutes from a performance by the candidate of solo, concerto, or one-to-a-part chamber-ensemble repertoire performed and recorded since October 2019

Evidence of performance date – for example, a concert programme or website – must be supplied.

Candidates should seek approval for alternative repertoire from the relevant Pathway Coordinator **by 5 pm on 21 April**.

4) A review and comparison of **three** commercial recordings (available online) of not more than 2000 words.

Repertoire should be for the candidate's instrument/voice-type or be relevant to keyboard/choral skills. The review should focus on issues of performance.

Candidates should seek approval for selected repertoire and recordings from the relevant Pathway Coordinator by **5 pm on 21 April**.

5) Performance self-reflection 1500 words. The self-reflection may touch on any or all of the following:

Musical/technical development (e.g. through principal study lessons or coaching), chamber performance, orchestral/choral performance, self-generated concerts/recordings/projects, masterclasses, and the listener's perspective.

Why have you undertaken certain activities, and how have they been useful to your artistic development? You may wish to consider questions such as rehearsal/performance strategies, aspects of collaborative music-making, leadership/directing/conducting, professional integrity, artistic aims and aspirations, clarity of communication/presentation, initiative and creativity, quality of perception, and the range of performing experiences.

Submission Deadlines

all deadlines are 1700 BST

Tuesday 21 April	Submission to Pathway Coordinators of proposals for Performance Portfolio
Tuesday 28 April	Formal submission (via Moodle) of Performance Portfolio proposals
Tuesday 26 May	Submission of Essay Two
Tuesday 23 June	Submission of Performance Portfolio (Vocal and Organ Pathways)

Tuesday 21 July Submission of all optional elements projects

FAQs

We realise that many of you will have concerns that are not addressed in this message. We invite you to send your queries to graduate@mus.cam.ac.uk in the first instance. We shall be setting up a Faculty of Music Assessment FAQ page on the Faculty website in the very near future through which we would hope to respond to your concerns.

With best wishes

Ian

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