

MA Advanced Opera Performance

Apply Through: UCAS Conservatoires
Institution Code: R59

This course overview provides a summary of the programmes offered from September 2019. Please note this may be subject to amendment and change in future years. Students are always consulted on such change and details are made available to applicants holding offers. For students to progress from year one to year two on a two-year postgraduate course, students will *normally* have to pass all first year modules.

Part 1	Part 2
The Opera Professional 1 20 credits	Opera Ensemble Project 20 credits
The Collaborative Performer 20 credits	Opera Performance 2 40 credits
Talking Text & Creating Character 20 credits	The Opera Professional 2 20 credits
Opera Performance 1 40 credits	

The Opera Professional 1

MA Advanced Opera Performance, MA Repetiteur Studies & MA Opera Directing

Credits: 20

Assessment: Career Plan (50%); Performance (50%)

Through a series of seminars, this module will provide an overview of the development of opera, including social and political influences, changes in musical style, dramatic/libretto issues, developments in production style and the “fach” system. Reflective tools will be introduced to enable the students to evaluate and crystallise their learning path across the programme. Building on contextual knowledge gained from the seminar series, the practical part of the project will focus on attaining a deep understanding of the challenges of delivering recitative in opera, across a range of composers, styles and languages. This will be delivered through working sessions, coaching, staging work and a summative performance. The works selected will reflect each student’s potential and, to a lesser degree, ambitions. Works will be chosen through negotiation between student, tutor and Head of Department. Contextual knowledge and an awareness of stylistic requirements relating to the selected repertoire will be taught within individual lessons and developed through research and personal practice.

The Collaborative Performer

MA Advanced Opera Performance

Credits: 20

Assessment: Reflective Critique (50%), Personal Development Interview (50%)

This intensively delivered module will introduce and explore techniques relating to fundamental stagecraft, professional etiquette and protocols within the context of collaborative working practices. Students will be encouraged to develop a reflective approach to their own work and the contribution of others in the group throughout the sequence of workshops.

Talking Text & Creating Character

MA Advanced Opera Performance

Credits: 20

Assessment: Performance (80%); Continuous Assessment (20%)

Through a series of workshops, students will explore methodologies for enhancing their skills as acting singers. They will investigate the challenges, opportunities and imperatives of improvised and scripted text with the International Chair in Directing. The physicality of dramatic delivery will be examined, synthesising movement with text. A focus on critically evaluating and responding to dramatic scenarios will equip students to take direction and to make appropriate dramatic choices.

Opera Performance 1

MA Advanced Opera Performance

Credits: 40

Assessment: Two Performances (90%), Interview (10%)

This module focuses primarily on the skill of being an effective ensemble member within an operatic company environment. It provides extensive practical experience, which may encompass: named role, chorus role, cover role and/or ensemble activity. Through the rehearsal process, students will be encouraged to collaborate in a professional manner, particularly in terms of stage etiquette. The module will develop the work undertaken within the Talking Text & Creating Character module, setting it directly in an operatic context, providing the opportunity to further explore and develop aspects of technique such as character, the relationship between text and music, creative and interpretation. Much of this work will be undertaken in a closed setting, creating a protective environment supportive to risk-taking.

Opera Ensemble Project

MA Advanced Opera Performance

Credits: 40

Assessment: Performance (60%), Portfolio (40%)

This module will provide a framework for self-directed activity, replicating typical professional projects, eg outreach/education work, concert parties, etc. Students will work in groups to design and deliver a project tailored for their chosen stakeholders, centred around opera in an innovative and creative way, and focusing on the development of appropriate amateur skills. The Opera School's partnership with WNO will enable input from and collaboration with their Youth and Community team, ensuring that the content of projects meets current professional practice and expectations. DBS checks may be required for this module, depending on type of project undertaken.

Opera Performance 2

Credits 40

Assessment: Two Performances (50%, 50%)

This module focuses on a range of advanced performance skills delivered through the study of a staged operatic role and operatic concert (with piano or orchestra, by agreement with the Award Leader). Personal practice will contribute significantly to the development of the individual together with the motivation to engage in the critical and reflective thinking necessary to bring a designated role to life (named/cover/chorus roles). Guidance will be supported through a series of opportunities to shadow the working life of company members within WNO.

The Opera Professional 2

MA Advanced Opera Performance, MA Repetiteur Studies & MA Opera Directing

Credits 20

Assessment: Mock Audition (75%); Portfolio (25%)

Through this module, students will engage in the detailed preparation of a complete operatic role from an opera chosen through discussion with 1:1 teacher and Award Leader. Classes will focus on achieving a synthesis of intellectual and instinctive choices in creating character, linked to a mastery of vocal demands. Students will receive guidance in how to prepare and present at an audition or working session with a professional opera company. Career management classes will be delivered by staff and/or professional opera mentors. This will serve to support the overall process, providing guidance in the preparation of a portfolio of relevant publicity material including a website. Classes which will revisit the themes investigated in *The Collaborative Performer* will enable students to analyse and reflect on their approach to the preparation as well as substantiate their role/operatic/industry knowledge.