



MMCC2063

Vocal Studies: Song, Composition & Arranging

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

School of Humanities

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor and Lecturer

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Consultation by appointment

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit focuses on singing, song, composition and musical arrangement in a range of styles. It aims to facilitate critical listening and singing through the exploration of vocal stylistic nuances and musically arranging for voice. Creative approaches to repertoire and songwriting are introduced. Students research songs and musical styles/genres and are encouraged to pursue specific interests such as Blues, Jazz, Musical Theatre, Country, Pop and Rock. The unit fosters the development of creative, interpretive, performative and analytical skills appropriate to a variety of contemporary music genres. Original songs may also be explored. No prior knowledge of singing is required.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: engage in, and maintain, vocal practice.

ULO2: compose lyric and melodic components for ensemble arrangements.

ULO3: apply reflexive strategies for collaborative and solo musical projects.

ULO4: research and analyse stylistic exercises that employ appropriate vocal technique and vocal health/care strategies.

ULO5: demonstrate or identify through critical listening a range of stylistic nuances in singing.

ULO6: apply academic conventions in writing and referencing.

General Assessment Information

Assessment

- Rubrics are used for all assessments and will be available on iLearn.
- Assessment standards in this unit align with the University's grade descriptors.
- A computer and Internet access are required. Music playback facility is also required.

Written and Performed Submissions

No songs that have been performed or analysed for assessments in other units may be used for assessment tasks in this unit.

Any written component for assessment tasks must be submitted through Turnitin by the due date/time shown.

Assessment tasks

- Individual times for the final assessment will be scheduled in Week 12.
- Due to copyright, no practical assessments may be recorded or posted to social media or any online platform.
- Performances are to be from memory. That is, no reading of scripts (e.g., spoken song analyses), lyrics or music.
- No vocals are to be on any backing track that may be used for assessment.
- Singing in a language other than English is permitted. Please **email a translation of the lyrics to the unit convenor prior to the assessment date.**

Referencing Style

For all written work, students **are required to use the APA 7th referencing style** for all in-text referencing, reference lists and spoken song analyses. This also includes references for recorded material where appropriate.

Please use the Library databases for your own research purposes and do not use Wikipedia as a reference.

iLearn Forums

Students are required **to participate in iLearn Forums for all group discussions**. Please do not use social media, e.g., do not use Facebook. Due to copyright issues, the posting of lyrics, sheet music and/or videos on iLearn is not permitted. If appropriate, please post only links to resources such as websites/YouTube. Please ensure that these are legitimate sites (e.g., artist's websites).

Return of marked work

Work will be marked and returned with feedback in order for students to incorporate feedback in subsequent assessments.

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, **a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends)**. After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue.

This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

Link to the Special Consideration application:

<https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration>

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Musical Style Exercises	15%	No	During Week 6 tutorials 3/9	Individual	No	Observed
Composing and Arranging	35%	No	In Wk 10 Lecture 14/10; lyrics due prior to Wk10 lecture	Individual and Group	No	Observed
Song Project	50%	No	Week 12 - Schedule TBA	Individual	No	Observed

Musical Style Exercises

Assessment Type ¹: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **During Week 6 tutorials 3/9**

Weighting: **15%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

Students perform a range of style related vocal exercises and undertake a *viva voce* as part of their performance. These exercises are set and are available on iLearn. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- engage in, and maintain, vocal practice.
- research and analyse stylistic exercises that employ appropriate vocal technique and vocal health/care strategies.
- demonstrate or identify through critical listening a range of stylistic nuances in singing.

Composing and Arranging

Assessment Type ¹: Creative task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **In Wk 10 Lecture 14/10; lyrics due prior to Wk10 lecture**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual and Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

For this assessment, students are required to individually write lyrics and compose a melody to a group theme consistent with a 12 bar blues structure. Collectively, students structure a musical arrangement of those segments for performance. Students are required to submit their individual lyric segments. Each group will engage in a *viva voce* component. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- compose lyric and melodic components for ensemble arrangements.
- apply reflexive strategies for collaborative and solo musical projects.
- demonstrate or identify through critical listening a range of stylistic nuances in singing.

Song Project

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 45 hours

Due: **Week 12 - Schedule TBA**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

Students are required to research, analyse and musically communicate two contrasting songs through an individual performance and engage in a *viva voce* OR a formal presentation and engage in a *viva voce*. In both options, students are required to discuss the style, composition and arrangement of their songs citing at least two academic sources. They will also detail the vocal nuances that are evident in the songs. The performance or formal presentation must be delivered from memory, that is, no reading of lyrics or scripts is permitted. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- apply reflexive strategies for collaborative and solo musical projects.
- demonstrate or identify through critical listening a range of stylistic nuances in singing.
- apply academic conventions in writing and referencing.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

Lectures commence in Week 1 and tutorials will commence in Week 2.

For online students, lectures can be accessed via Echo360 and tutorials via a Zoom link on iLearn.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)

- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2026.01R of the [Handbook](#)