



# MUS 202

## Music Production 1

S1 Day 2019

*Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies*

### Contents

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<a href="#"><u>General Information</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>Learning Outcomes</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>General Assessment Information</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Assessment Tasks</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Delivery and Resources</u></a>	6
<a href="#"><u>Policies and Procedures</u></a>	7
<a href="#"><u>Graduate Capabilities</u></a>	9

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

### Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor, lecturer, tutor

Sarah Keith

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10HA 251

By appointment

Tutor

Andrew Alter

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By appointment

### Credit points

3

### Prerequisites

12cp at 100 level or above

### Corequisites

### Co-badged status

### Unit description

Contemporary music production and composition is increasingly reliant on computer technology. In this unit, students are introduced to principles of composition and production using MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) and virtual instruments. Students develop technical skills as well as compositional literacy. Creativity is encouraged, as students produce original musical works within the dedicated music computer laboratory. The skills learned in this unit are built upon in further music technology units (MUS203, MUS300).

Cubase music production software is used throughout these units. No prior computer production or musical ability is necessary.

## 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:

Apply practical knowledge of MIDI music production and composition in Cubase

- Recognise and explain digital (MIDI) music production concepts
- Develop proficiency with composition and musical creativity
- Analyse and describe creative musical works
- Discuss and justify musical ideas and participate in shared creativity both in class and online
- Practice independent and analytical judgement and self-reflection
- Employ information retrieval skills
- Set up and time-manage creative and research projects

## General Assessment Information

### Assessment standards

Assessment standards in this unit align with the University's grade descriptors, available at: <http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/assessment>

### Late submission / Special Consideration

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved:

1. a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and
2. no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (including weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests, online participation.

### Feedback

Feedback on assessments and student learning and performance will be provided in a range of ways. Students will receive formal individual feedback on their performance in assessments in the form of general comments, rubric and in-text comments attached to assignments marked in Grademark/Turnitin. Feedback may also be delivered as verbal feedback in tutorials, via email communication and in personal consultations (if sought). *Students are encouraged to make use of tutorials as opportunities for feedback from the tutor on works in progress.* Marks are made available in the Gradebook function in iLearn.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Cubase Project 1</a>	25%	No	Week 7
<a href="#">Cubase Project 2</a>	45%	No	Week 13
<a href="#">Online Participation</a>	30%	No	Ongoing

## Cubase Project 1

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **25%**

This assessment includes two parts: **an original Cubase MIDI composition (15%)** and **a written reflection (10%)**.

Students will employ the skills and techniques learnt in Weeks 1–6 to create an original Cubase MIDI composition (2-3 minutes duration). This Cubase project (15%) will be submitted **during tutorials in Week 7**. Students are expected to work towards completing this composition outside of class hours and are encouraged to seek feedback during tutorials.

An accompanying written reflection (10%) of 400-600 words detailing the creative process, research and technical engagement of this Cubase project will be submitted **to iLearn before 5pm Friday, Week 7**.

### Assessment criteria:

- [Cubase Project] Technical engagement, including project organisation and submission
- [Cubase Project] Musical engagement, including proficiency in composition and arrangement
- [Written Reflection] Engagement with unit concepts and evidence of independent research
- [Written Reflection] Writing style, proofreading and organisation

A full rubric will be available on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply practical knowledge of MIDI music production and composition in Cubase
- Develop proficiency with composition and musical creativity
- Discuss and justify musical ideas and participate in shared creativity both in class and online
- Practice independent and analytical judgement and self-reflection
- Set up and time-manage creative and research projects

## Cubase Project 2

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **45%**

This assessment includes two parts: **an original Cubase MIDI composition (30%)** and **a written reflection (15%)**.

Students will produce an advanced original composition (3-6 minutes) building on skills and feedback gained from Cubase Project 1, and employing technical concepts learned throughout

the unit. As for Cubase Project 1, students are expected to work towards completing this composition outside of class hours and are encouraged to seek feedback during tutorials. Cubase Project 2 (30%) will be submitted **during** (or before) **tutorials in Week 13**. Students are expected to work towards completing this composition outside of class hours and are encouraged to seek feedback during tutorials.

An accompanying written reflection (15%) of 750-1000 words detailing the creative process, research and technical engagement of this Cubase project will be submitted **to iLearn before 5pm Friday, Week 13**.

**Assessment criteria:**

- [Cubase Project] Advanced technical engagement, including project organisation and submission
- [Cubase Project] Musical engagement, including advanced proficiency in composition and arrangement
- [Written Reflection] Engagement with advanced unit concepts and evidence of independent research
- [Written Reflection] Writing style, proofreading and organisation

A full rubric will be available on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply practical knowledge of MIDI music production and composition in Cubase
- Develop proficiency with composition and musical creativity
- Practice independent and analytical judgement and self-reflection
- Set up and time-manage creative and research projects

## Online Participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **30%**

iLearn activities will be used for online participation activities throughout this unit. Students should respond to these activities within the stated deadlines. These activities include practical exercises, analysis and critical listening, and self-reflection. They should be completed in a way that shows comprehension of, and engagement with, core unit concepts, as well as an application of these concepts to Cubase Project 1 or 2.

**Assessment criteria:**

- Understanding and application of relevant unit concepts, terminology, and content
- Participation in group discussions and responsiveness to other group members; critical and self-reflective awareness
- Engagement with group forum activities, including timeliness and number of forum posts

A full rubric will be available on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognise and explain digital (MIDI) music production concepts
- Develop proficiency with composition and musical creativity
- Analyse and describe creative musical works
- Discuss and justify musical ideas and participate in shared creativity both in class and online
- Practice independent and analytical judgement and self-reflection
- Employ information retrieval skills

## Delivery and Resources

### Lectures (delivered via iLearn) begin in Week 1. Tutorials begin in Week 2.

**Technologies used and required: Lecture videos** | All MUS202 lectures are provided as online videos via iLearn. There are no face-to-face lectures for MUS202. Students should view each week's video(s) before attending tutorials.

**Technologies used and required: Website** | MUS202 lectures, tutorial worksheets, and other key learning materials are hosted on the MUS202 iLearn site. The MUS202 iLearn unit may be accessed from within the music labs or from off-campus at <http://www.ilearn.mq.edu.au>.

**Technologies used and required: Required Equipment** | You will need to bring a suitable pair of headphones to tutorials each week. In-ear (iPod-style) headphones are not recommended, as their sound reproduction quality is generally inadequate and may jeopardise the quality of your work. Consider your headphones an investment. You will also require a Mac-compatible USB thumb drive (4GB or more) or a portable hard drive (preferably USB-powered) in order to back up and transfer your work.

**Music lab** | You may make use of the 10HA music lab at any time when there are no classes taking place. The opening hours for the music lab will be 9–5 on weekdays, with possible longer opening hours; this will be discussed in lectures/tutorials.

**Software Compatibility** | It is your own responsibility to ensure that any work undertaken outside of the Music computer labs is fully functional within and compatible with the version of Cubase currently installed on the computers in the labs. Working within other software platforms (such as Garageband or Reason) as well as Cubase is not recommended, as this has caused significant problems for students in the past. Additional VST instruments not native to Cubase or provided on the lab workstations should not be used: for further information, discuss this with your tutor.

**Attendance** | Students are expected to watch all lectures and attend all tutorials for this unit. Tutorial attendance is compulsory, and missing more than two tutorials will severely compromise your performance in this unit. If you have missed a tutorial due to unforeseen/unavoidable

medical or personal circumstances, speak to your tutor as soon as possible and provide evidence of disruption. A roll will be taken in the first 10 minutes of every tutorial; *students entering late are responsible for making themselves known to the tutor so they can be marked as in attendance.*

**Assignment Submission** | There are no hard-copy submissions for MUS202. Written assignments and iLearn activities will be completed/submitted via iLearn/Turnitin. Cubase projects will be uploaded to a secure dropbox. This will be further explained in tutorials.

**Return of marked work** | Marked work and feedback will be returned to students online via iLearn.

**Late submissions and Special Consideration** | Assessments (Cubase Project 1 or Cubase Project 2) submitted after the due date and time will automatically be penalised in line with the Late Submission penalty outlined above, unless medical certification or evidence of serious and unavoidable disruption is provided. Late submissions for iLearn activities within the Online Participation assessment will receive a mark of zero, as these are timed assessments. *Contact the course convenor well in advance if you are experiencing disruptions and may be unable to submit an assessment on time.* Extensions will only be granted through the Special Consideration process. Students experiencing disruptions of least three (3) consecutive days duration or a total of 5 days within the teaching period must apply for Special Consideration.

**Referencing style** | Preferred referencing styles include Harvard [http://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm?harvard\\_id=24#24](http://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm?harvard_id=24#24) and APA <http://www.usq.edu.au/library/help/referencing/apa.htm>. Either or any style may be used as long as all necessary information is provided and a consistent approach is taken.

**Recommended reading and research** | The recommended readings for this unit are intended to supplement core work with Cubase, as well as enhancing students' understanding of concepts taught throughout the course. Readings will not be objectively assessed from week to week, however it is strongly advised that students broaden their understanding of concepts and practices relating to Cubase, MIDI, and music production by completing relevant recommended readings as well as undertaking their own research and listening analyses.

## **Policies and Procedures**

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). 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](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)

- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

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

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/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 [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

### Additional information

MMCCS website: <http://mmccs.mq.edu.au>

MMCCS Session Re-mark Application: <http://www.mq.edu.au/pubstatic/public/download/?id=167914>

Information is correct at the time of publication.

## Student Support

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

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide



appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](https://ask.mq.edu.au)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

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.

## Graduate Capabilities

### Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcomes

- Apply practical knowledge of MIDI music production and composition in Cubase
- Develop proficiency with composition and musical creativity
- Discuss and justify musical ideas and participate in shared creativity both in class and online

#### Assessment tasks

- Cubase Project 1
- Cubase Project 2

### Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcomes

- Analyse and describe creative musical works

- Discuss and justify musical ideas and participate in shared creativity both in class and online
- Practice independent and analytical judgement and self-reflection

## **Assessment tasks**

- Cubase Project 1
- Online Participation

## **Commitment to Continuous Learning**

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### **Learning outcomes**

- Apply practical knowledge of MIDI music production and composition in Cubase
- Develop proficiency with composition and musical creativity
- Employ information retrieval skills

## **Assessment tasks**

- Cubase Project 2
- Online Participation

## **Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills**

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### **Learning outcomes**

- Apply practical knowledge of MIDI music production and composition in Cubase
- Recognise and explain digital (MIDI) music production concepts
- Develop proficiency with composition and musical creativity
- Analyse and describe creative musical works

- Discuss and justify musical ideas and participate in shared creativity both in class and online
- Set up and time-manage creative and research projects

### **Assessment tasks**

- Cubase Project 1
- Cubase Project 2
- Online Participation

## **Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### **Learning outcomes**

- Apply practical knowledge of MIDI music production and composition in Cubase
- Recognise and explain digital (MIDI) music production concepts
- Discuss and justify musical ideas and participate in shared creativity both in class and online

### **Assessment tasks**

- Cubase Project 1
- Cubase Project 2
- Online Participation

## **Problem Solving and Research Capability**

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### **Learning outcomes**

- Apply practical knowledge of MIDI music production and composition in Cubase
- Recognise and explain digital (MIDI) music production concepts
- Develop proficiency with composition and musical creativity

- Analyse and describe creative musical works
- Practice independent and analytical judgement and self-reflection

## **Assessment tasks**

- Cubase Project 1
- Cubase Project 2
- Online Participation

## **Effective Communication**

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Recognise and explain digital (MIDI) music production concepts
- Analyse and describe creative musical works
- Discuss and justify musical ideas and participate in shared creativity both in class and online
- Practice independent and analytical judgement and self-reflection
- Employ information retrieval skills
- Set up and time-manage creative and research projects

## **Assessment tasks**

- Cubase Project 1
- Cubase Project 2
- Online Participation

## **Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens**

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcome

- Discuss and justify musical ideas and participate in shared creativity both in class and online

## Assessment task

- Cubase Project 1

## Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcome

- Discuss and justify musical ideas and participate in shared creativity both in class and online

## Assessment task

- Cubase Project 1