

## Welcome to BA (Hons) Popular Music.

The course team and I would like to welcome you to the University of Northampton and particularly to the BA in Popular Music. This is a course that is challenging, fun and exciting in equal measure, both for you and for us. We focus on equipping you with three fundamental skill sets:

- performing and composing
- recording & producing
- thinking & writing

The third of the above is possibly the most important, because it allows you to understand why you do the other two. The role and function of popular music in contemporary culture, industry and economy is something that you will interrogate as part of this course in regard to performance, consumption and innovation.

At the same time you will be developing your skills in the recording studio, with digital audio workstations, and as a performer/composer as well as an arranger. We want to give you the opportunity to graduate as a 360 degree music professional, with a range of skills and experience that will prepare you for the years ahead.

We're excited to meet you and get started on this journey, which demands a lot from both parties. You will need to commit a lot of time, enthusiasm and thought to your studies. Sometimes you may be challenged with music, techniques or approaches that seem unfamiliar or outside your comfort zone... remember, that's one of the reasons you chose to come to university to study. We are always willing to hear from you and we all look forward to working closely with you over the next few years.

Mark Thursby, Programme Leader

## Things you'll need

It is essential that you get a hard drive to store and back up your work. We recommend a hard drive that spins at 7200 RPM as this will be fast enough to run music project sessions directly from the drive. A 1TB size should be enough for your coursework.

We also recommend that you buy your own ear plugs. We do provide disposable ones, but you will find ear plugs by companies such as Alpine and ProPlugs more comfortable and they provide a much clearer sound.

We provide instruments for the performance modules, but you should bring your own drum sticks, guitar leads, capo and pics if you need them.

|                        | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   |
|------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| <b>9am – 12am</b>      |  | <p align="center"><b>Subject Session</b><br/>LH322</p> <p>A chance to meet the Programme Team, who will talk about the degree, what you need to know right now and what happens when classes start.</p> | Use this time to sort out any issues you might have with accommodation, finance etc., get to know the campus and the town and generally settle in.   |  |  |
| <b>12.30 – 1pm</b>     | <p align="center"><b>Welcome Session</b><br/>SN101 Morley Room</p>   |   |  |  |  |
| <b>1pm – 2pm</b>       | <p align="center"><b>Student Union Sessions</b></p> <p align="center"><a href="#">FRESHERS: Union Day</a></p> <p align="center">Market Square,<br/>Northampton Town Centre<br/><b>Monday 24-09-2018</b><br/><b>10:00 until 16:00</b></p> | Use this time to sort out any issues you might have with accommodation, finance etc., get to know the campus and the town and generally settle in.  | <p align="center"><b>The Musician's Union</b><br/>Ben Benson<br/>Room TBC</p> <p>Ben will be talking about the MU and what it can do to help your career in the music industry.</p>  |  | Use this time to sort out any issues you might have with accommodation, finance etc., get to know the campus and the town and generally settle in. |
| <b>1.30pm – 2.30pm</b> |  |   |  | <p align="center"><b>Q and A</b><br/>SN211</p> <p>A chance to meet with the Programme team for any nagging questions you may have.</p> |  |
| <b>3pm – 6pm</b>       |  |   | <p align="center"><b>Facilities induction and Jam session</b><br/>MB9 – Avenue Campus</p> <p>Our Studio Technician Adam Jones will guide you around our studio complex and talk you through the studio code of conduct. Followed by a Jam session with your fellow students.</p> | <p align="center"><b>Skills Session</b><br/>SN101 Morley Room</p>  |  |
| <b>7pm – 11pm</b>      |  |   |  | <p align="center"><b>UON Sound Gig</b><br/>Venue TBC</p>   |  |