

## THE CENTRE FOR IDEAS

The Centre For Ideas is a cross-disciplinary course at the Faculty of the VCA. All undergraduate students take a series of subjects as part of the degree structure. The Centre For Ideas offers students an exciting opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills crucial to artistic development. The Centre For Ideas marks a radical departure from the conventional teaching models in arts education. The Centre For Ideas embraces the whole College and provides a range of perspectives on contemporary culture. The Faculty of the VCA is unique in its assemblage of different schools and artistic practices. The opportunity for students to mix and learn together in a new critical context provides a resource from which students will draw throughout their careers.

There are two main principles for the Centre For Ideas:

1. To expand the awareness of critical discourse on art and practice, through a cross-disciplinary approach that includes historical, cultural, political and theoretical investigation.
2. To deepen awareness of the creative process through collaborative practice.

With the introduction of the Centre For Ideas, the Faculty of the VCA has introduced a dynamic model for engaging critical thinking and collaborative practice.

## EVENTS

Major projects include: Sound Out - VCA Symphony Orchestra performances of works by VCA composers. Cross-Media major tasks including composition for Film and TV, Animation, Theatre, Art and Dance.

## VISITING ARTISTS

The Practical Composition Stream has numerous prestigious visiting artists presenting specialist classes. These have included Professor Larry

Polansky, Harry Sparnaay, Kenneth Gaburo, Donald Martino, Ross Edwards, Martin Bresnick, Ros Bandt, Richard Gill and Christopher Young.

## THE AUDITION PROCESS

The Practical Composition Stream at the VCA seeks students whose talent and commitment to compositional excellence promise future achievement in their chosen style. The audition is scheduled for approximately 20 minutes and will consist of the following four components:

1. Presentation of a folio of three works (including scores and recordings). The folio can include electronic works, however at least one work should be scored. The folio should demonstrate an established composition craft within a range of compositional styles and a range of instrumental and/or electronic forces (eg. 1 solo work, 1 small group work, 1 large group work and/or electronic works). The folio will be evaluated on the level of compositional craft, creativity and understanding of music scoring.
2. A performance of one short work (approx. 3 minutes) as evidence of creative performance skills and your highest performance level. This work can be one of the applicant's compositions.
3. Applicants will also be required to complete a creative task, to be allocated 15 minutes prior to the audition time and may be required to undergo a musicianship test.
4. Applicants will be required to submit a 100 word statement outlining musical goals, as well as an outline of his/her current practice schedule.

## TO APPLY

Download the application form from the website or contact:

Admissions  
Faculty of the VCA  
234 St Kilda Road  
Southbank VIC 3006  
Phone: 03 9685 9419  
Email: [caholmes@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:caholmes@unimelb.edu.au)



# PRACTICAL COMPOSITION STREAM

VCA Music

New Music  
New Music  
New Music  
New Music  
New Music  
New Music  
New Music

## VCA MUSIC

The Victorian College of the Arts School of Music was established in 1974 with John Hopkins, the highly respected conductor and educationalist as its first Dean. The courses at the VCA Music are directed towards educating and training students to become professional musicians in a practical environment, and to promote the highest level of performance by students and staff in a range of concerts and recitals reflecting the School's ethos and commitment to a broad range of musical styles and repertoire. The Bachelor of Music Performance degree at the Faculty of the VCA is offered in three streams: Repertoire, Improvisation and Practical Composition.

## THE PRACTICAL COMPOSITION

### STREAM

The Practical Composition Stream was established to offer a specialist program focusing on the practical nature of composition with particular emphasis on creating sound for a diversity of contexts. The Stream is the third stream in the VCA Music. It is the youngest Stream in VCA Music and enrolled its first students in 1998.

Practical Composition Stream students are prepared for professional careers as composers by an impressive academic staff consisting of highly regarded established composers and teachers. In addition to teaching, composition staff members remain practising composers, making the VCA Music a dynamic and unique centre in which the pursuit of excellence is a common ideal shared by staff and students.

Teaching staff include: Mark Pollard (Head of Practical Composition), Geoff Hughes, Dr David Kram, Elizabeth Mitchell, Dr Rob Vincs, and sessional tutors Jo Selleck, Darryl McKenzie, Kate Neal, Anthony Lyons, George Papanicolaou, Andrian Pertout and Dr Timothy Stevens.

## BACHELOR OF MUSIC

### PERFORMANCE

The Bachelor of Music Performance is a three-year, full-time degree which provides specialist training for students who wish to prepare for careers as professional musicians. This is a Commonwealth funded (CSP) course which may be followed by a full-time fourth year for selected students to complete an Honours degree.

Upon completion of the Bachelor of Performance students should be able to:

- Exhibit extensive theoretical and practical knowledge of their discipline including relevant profession knowledge, skills, discipline and ethics as they relate to the practising musician;
- Demonstrate an open and independent attitude towards contemporary cultural developments;
- Demonstrate a flexible and innovative approach to the challenges for the professional musician in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century;
- Critically and creatively engage with topics of cultural significance across the broader community;
- Work at various levels, both individually and as a team member in a wide variety of musical environments;
- Understand and appreciate how the arts connect with the broader society and culture;
- Demonstrate the ability to lead and take initiative in the learning process.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

### Year 1

#### Principal Study

Individual Lesson and Performance Workshop

#### Specialist Related Studies

Cross-media: Composition for

Film/Art/Dance/Theatre

Orchestration and Arranging

#### Ensemble

Group Composition and Conducting/Directing

#### Aural Studies

Harmonic and Rhythmic Components

#### Languages of Music

History and Analysis

#### Centre For Ideas

### Year 2

#### Principal Study

Individual Lesson and Performance Workshop

#### Specialist Related Studies

Cross-media: Composition for

Film/Art/Dance/Theatre

Advanced Orchestration and Arranging

#### Ensemble

Group Composition and Conducting/Directing

#### Aural Studies

Harmonic and Rhythmic Components

#### Languages of Music

History and Analysis

#### Centre For Ideas

### Year 3

#### Principal Study

Individual Lesson and Performance Workshop

#### Specialist Related Studies

Cross-media: Composition for

Film/Art/Dance/Theatre

Advanced Orchestration and Arranging

#### Ensemble

Group Composition and Conducting/Directing

#### Cross Departmental Modules

Four Modules

#### Centre For Ideas