PROSPECTUS 2021-2022 | www.wits.ac.za/wsoa/music/





# WELCOME

Wits Music is one of South Africa's most innovative higher education music departments, preparing students for diverse careers in music in the contemporary world, and seeks to encourage both creative practice and critical inquiry (the making of music and thinking about it).

Unique at Wits Music, our students are not streamed into jazz, classical, African music, or music technology degrees. We offer an integrated Bachelor of Music (BMus) degree, providing students with a rigorous training in the disciplines of the music profession, and an opportunity to experience and learn from multiple traditions of music. In the Wits BMus, for example, a classical flautist will also do jazz theory and studio production, and a musical theatre voice student learn orchestral arranging and South African music history.

The thinking informing our integrated BMus is both pragmatic and philosophical. Rather than channel young students' learning into a single area of knowledge and tradition of music at the outset of their studies, the Wits BMus is an exploratory degree: it provides students with an environment in which to

experience new and different domains and, by the time they graduate, with sufficient know-how to make an informed decision about which fields of music they wish to pursue in the world of work. Such multi-level musical exposure, we believe, better prepares students for success in a twenty-first-century music workplace that is plural and fragmented, and often characterised by portfolio careers demanding a range of skills and knowledge. Exposing students to multiple musics and ways of thinking, we would argue, also equips them to better navigate the diverse world in which we live.

As a small music department, limiting our first-year intake to 30 students, Wits Music allows for a more student-centered, individualised learning environment, which offers academic mentoring often not available at larger institutions.

Our students come from a wide variety of backgrounds reflecting our society and world; they study with performers, composers, and thinkers at the forefront of their fields; and graduate with a relevant, diverse and rigorous training.

Diversity and cross-disciplinarity: Choose from a range of courses for twenty-first century music professionals.

The heart of Johannesburg: **Study in the continent's music capital and capitalise on a global city's musical offerings.** 

Top-class tuition by leaders in the field: Learn with some of the country's leading thinkers and performing and creative musicians.



Photo: Wits Arts Museum

### Wits Music - Johannesburg/Africa/the world

ive performance opportunities in Johannesburg abound. The city has the biggest and best-equipped music theatre venues. There are many jazz venues in the city. Sophiatown the Mix, Roving Bantu Kitchen, The Orbit (closed since 2018), Afrikan Freedom Station, and Untitled Basement @ Artivist. Some have been around for a long time, others come and go. Most are nearby Wits and host an array of the world's leading jazz musicians, including Wits Music lecturers, students and alumni. Past workshops and concerts at Wits Music have included award winning Japanese pianist Junko Yamamoto, electronics composer Oliver Frick, Dr Courtney Bryan (Tulane University), ECM Swiss artist Nik Bärtsch's Ronin, Grammy award-winning American group Yellowjackets and many local and international artists and eduators.

Wits' Linder Auditorium, a symphony concert hall renowned for its fine acoustics, is home to the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra (JPO).

One of the country's leading choirs, the Gauteng Choristers, with which Wits also has a partnership, is based on campus. Many major international pop and jazz stars give concerts on campus, as well as in Johannesburg's large arenas and some present workshops to students. Johannesburg is the centre of Africa's media industry, and the related broadcasting and film industries provide significant working opportunities for musicians. Also, the world's major multinational music companies have their African headquarters in Johannesburg, and the city is home to many of the country's smaller independent labels and studios.

Many Wits Music students take advantage of Joahnnesburg's music life: playing gigs and teaching, earning money to support their studies, networking and gaining first hand experience in the professional world in which they'll make their careers.

### Wits School of Arts

Wits Music also distinguishes itself by interacting with the other arts, as the only university music department in Africa to be part of a School of Arts that includes television & film, dramatic arts, digital arts, fine arts, and arts management departments. By collaborating with students from the rest of the School, music students prepare themselves for careers in a high-tech world in which the media and arts are increasingly converging. The Wits BMus thus offers students opportunities to explore beyond music, enriching their music knowledge with cross-disciplinary engagement.





Wits Music graduate
Luca De Bellis was voted Top
Up and Coming South African
Drummer by SA Drummer
Magazine (2017). He played
in many award winning
productions, including a
world tour of Chicago The
Musical. Luca is endorsed
by TAMA Drums (SA) and
Zildjian Cymbals.

Pianist Malcolm Nay's Wits Trio regularly performs at Wits and around the country.

## **Degree Flow**

n the Bachelor of Music (BMus) degree, there are three main types of teaching: practical, theoretical and academic. These run concurrently through the first three years of your degree. The practical teaching happens in the Music Performance Studies courses and includes one-on-one tuition, class practical (in which you perform for your peers and learn critiquing techniques) and ensemble lessons (performing in groups). The theoretical teaching happens in the Music Literacies and Skills courses. In this course you work progressively from establishing musical literacy (that is, reading and writing music) to learning various composition techniques, as well as developing aspects of general musicianship. The academic teaching is done in the Critical Music Studies courses and develops your ability to think about and reflect on music.

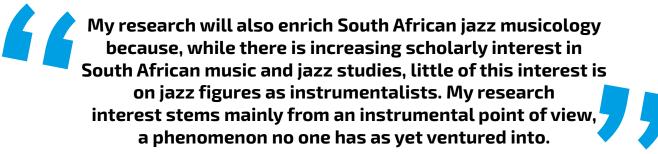
In each of your first three years, you will have a full year Music Performance Studies course, a full year Music Literacies and Skills course and a full year Critical Music Studies course to focus on. In your first two years, you take two Bachelor of Arts (BA) courses (one in the first semester and one in the second) in addition to your music courses to your music courses. Currently it is compulsory to do a South African language as the BA courses to your music courses." Currently it is compulsory to do a South African language as the BA courses.

Fourth year is about specialisation. In addition to compulsory courses in Music Criticism and Music Business Studies, you can choose a specialisation in composition, performance, community music research, and/or music business. Each of these specialisations runs through the whole year.



In recent years, Wits Music students have performed at the Oslo Jazz Festival, Aspen Music Festival, formed part of some of the country's most innovative indie groups, sung in the gospel collective Joyous Celebration, performed in the band for the hit musical Dreamgirls, and scored music for film and television.





2019 Wits Arts Research Africa (ARA) award recipient, acclaimed jazz pianist Yonela Mnana, draws his inspiration from the lineage of South African music. His PhD research, under the supervision of musicologist, Dr Lindelwa Dalamba, aims to examine the aesthetics and politics of the South African solo jazz piano recital, which is an instrument that "in conventional jazz settings mostly plays a supporting role."



### **Carl Straussner**

Classical Guitar Graduate, who completed a master's degree in performance at the New England Conservatory of Music, U.S.

eing at Wits has really opened my eyes to what is out there in the music industry. The challenging academic environment that is shared by staff and studens at Wis has not only broadened my mind, but the multi-faceted nature of the BMus degree has also exposed me to a wide range of fields within the music industry such as: sound design, composition, music history, music business and performance. The staff in the music department are extremely passionate and their 'hands-on' approach to teaching has not only stimulated my interests in various fields, but has also motivated me to work hard and as a consequence I have been fortunate

enough to have had opportunities to work within the professional industry - I performed with well-known guitarists Jonathan Crossley and James Grace; I was commissioned to transcribe songs for the award-winning arranger and musical director Bryan Schimmel; and I recently made it through to the second round of the ATKV-Musiq classical music competition; and to think three years ago I had no clue who Bach was! The Wits School of Arts is really a vibrant place, bursting with opportunities - the perfect place for any artist to explore and develop his/her art. Wits really does give you the edge.

# WITS SCHOOL OF ARTS BACHELOR OF MUSIC



IsiZulu, SeSotho or South African Sign Language

SECOND YEAR	Critical Music Studies IIA	Music Performance Studies IIA	Music Literacies and Skills IIA	Students may substitute Music Performance Studies 2 or
	Critical Music Studies IIB	Music Performance Studies IIB	Music Literacies and Skills IIB	Music Literacies and Skills 2 with other course(s) within the Faculty.

THIRD YEAR	Compulsory				Optional	
	Music in History and Society courses: Music and the Theatre; Music, Sound and the Moving Image; Musical Modernisms; Music in Contemporary Lives	Music Performance Studies IIIA	And/ Or	Music Composition Studies IIIA	Students not doing Composition and Performance courses may select another course(s) in the	
		Music Performance Studies IIIB		Music Composition Studies IIIB	School of Arts or Faculty, such Arts Management and Cultur Policy.	

### Compulsory

Music Criticism: Research Project
Music Business Studies
One of the following specialisations:
Composition Studies IV: Theory & Analysi
Composition Studies IV: Portfolio

#### UK

Music Performance Studies in

### **FOURTH YEAR**

Community Musi

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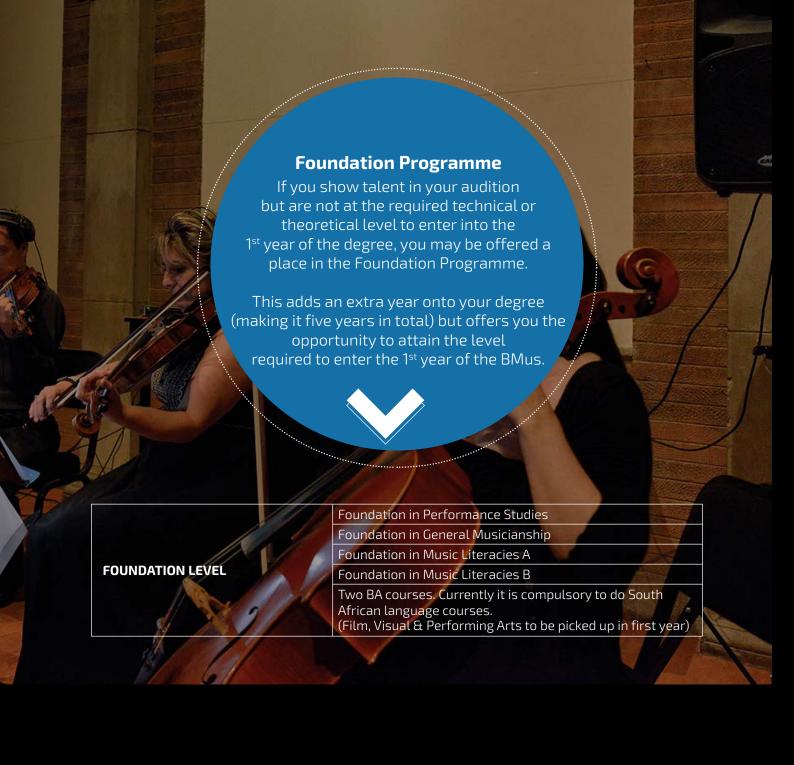
A unit in Faculty at 4000 level suitable to the Long Essay research topic

#### OF

Arts Marketing and Business Studies IVA Performing Arts Management IVB

### And one of the following:

Composition Studies IV: Theory & Analysis
Music Performance IV: Minor Study
Community Music 4: Minor Study
3D Computer Based Animation
Applied Concepts in Digital Networked Media
Arts Marketing and Business Studies IV
Performing Arts Management IVB
Performance Studies IVA
Performance Studies IVB
Musical Theatre IVA
Musical Theatre IVB
A unit at 4000 level approved by Faculty







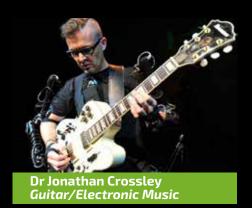






Photo Credits: Jonathan Crossley - Prof. Christo Doherty, Carlo Mombelli - Reza Khota and Andre Petersen - Siphiwe Mhlambi

# Disciplines - Performance

Performance at Wits is a central part of the degree. It is compulsory for the first two years of the degree, while students who intend to major in performance continue with performance studies through the third and fourth years of the degree. Musical performance teaches instrument-specific and general musical skills, but it also teaches: intense self-discipline, collaborative team work, and self-expression and creative thinking; skills that are vital in the modern workplace. Musical performance requires sustained commitment and a solid work ethic.

The Performance Studies courses cover a range of activities. These include: individual instrumental or vocal lessons (specialising in western classical music, jazz or musical theatre) in a one-on-one learning environment with a performance tutor, practical group criticism classes, ensemble classes and aural training. In the final year of study, students can choose to major in performance culminating in a public recital. Because we're in Johannesburg, students are taught by some of the top performers and teachers in the country. Our permanent staff has garnered ten South African Music Awards (SAMA) nominations amongst them – probably more than any other music department in the country.



### Keo Kolwane

2019 SAMRO Overseas Scholarship Winner – Honours Performance Graduate

My performance and research lecturers groomed my artistry by generously imparting knowledge with so much care, support, empathy and precision.

Wits honours graduate, Keorapetse Kolwane is fast becoming one of South Africa's jazz vocal rising stars. Amongst her many achievements, she was selected as lead vocalist with the prestigious Standard Bank National Youth Jazz Band (2015). In addition to regular performances in South Africa, Keorapetse has also performed throughout Africa as well as Europe and the United States, including Egypt, New York City, Washington D.C, Louisville, Orlando and Western Kentucky and at the 2018 Oslo Jazz Festival (Norway).

Under the tutelage of Wits vocal jazz lecturer, Chantal Willie, Keorapetse won the first prize in the 2019 SAMRO Jazz Overseas Scholarship Competition.



# Performance at Wits allows for the exploratory...

The Wits Performance Programme is unique in that it allows students focussing on different areas of performance to interact: Group practical classes feature performances by both jazz and classical students in the same class with lecturers from both areas providing critique. A classical flautist is welcome to join a jazz improvisation group, and a jazz voice student to play in a marimba band. In this way, those students interested in exploring beyond their primary area of instrument/voice study have the opportunity to do so.

There are numerous opportunities for students to perform on campus (and off campus): The weekly "Combined Prac" features the best soloists and ensembles; the Wednesday public lunch-hour concerts in the Great Hall give students a platform to perform for the wider University community, a stage they share with guest performers; and there are numerous opportunities for students to perform at evening concerts. In this way, students learn to perform under diverse professional performance conditions.



### Phumlani Mtiti Wits Honours graduate and SAMA award winner

world-renowned performance and research institution at the center of Southern Africa's most sought-after Creative Industries economy. An institution embracing the unfolding of its country's cultural identity. If anything, I'm grateful for the brilliant lecturers and students classmates I've met.

# My studies with my Wits vocal lecturer, Ms Eugenie Chopin, prepared me for the next chapter of my career as a classically trained soprano soloist.



### Nokuthula Magubane

# Graduated with a BMus degree, in Classical Vocal Performance.

Afour-time recipient of the Joyce Barker Memorial award, Nokuthula was part of the touring cast with William Kentridge's accclaimed production, *The Head and the Load*. As a main cast member, she performed in New York's Park Avenue Armoury (2018), London (2018), Germany's Ruhrtriennale Festival (2018) and the Holland festival in Amsterdam (2019). Her passion for making music with people cultivated her love for choral music and it has resulted in her participation in two important choirs - the Ekurhuleni Children's Choir and the Wits Choir.

She has toured Europe extensively with these two choirs, as a soprano. Under the tutelage of Wits classical lecturer, Ms Eugenie Chopin, Nokuthula's career as a classically trained sporano soloist is one to watch.



Conservatoire in the United Kingdom.

eing a music student at Wits has been a great experience for me. With the guidance and advice of experienced lecturers, I have been able to progress to the final rounds of the ATKV Muziq and Philip H. Moore Competitions. Wits has helped me broaden my musical porizon beyond all expectations.

# Mpho Molikeng Visiting Wits Lecturer (Story teller & cultural activist)

esotho born poet, painter, cultural activist and musician, Mpho Molikeng, studied at the Bloemfontein College (Fine Art) as well as the Soyikwa Institute Of African Theatre (Drama). As a drum specialist, he plays a host of African instruments including lesiba, mamkhorong, setolo-tolo, mbira, djembe. Mpho is widely recognised as a Lesotho/South African indigenous instrument specialist.

He has received numerous awards including best-written show and best new production at the Windybrow Festival (2000-2003). As a dancer he has performed at Wits University as well as choreographing the solo for 'I've got u babe' for Dance Umbrella. Mpho has conducted masterclasses throughout Africa, specialising in indigenous instrument making and repairs. His "Of Bows & People Tour" supported by Concerts SA, has toured Lesotho, Swaziland, Durban and Cape Town.

As a visiting lecturer at Wits, he works with undergraduate students in the art of making of indigenous musical instruments out of traditional and recycled materials, and using these instruments in the context of Southern African traditional music and experimental music composition.







Wits Music students have their music for original animation films performed live by a professional string quartet.



### Composition

Music Composition Studies in the third and fourth year of the BMus degree offers exciting opportunities for young emerging composers to acquire advanced creative skills, both technical and musical, in a variety of styles and in various genres. Wits Music is able to do this because we have one of the largest and most diverse bodies of composers on the staff of any university in the country, whose interests include jazz, experimental electronica, contemporary, new music composition, film music and popular commercial music.

The Composition specialisation leads on from our broad-based Music Literacies and Skills courses in first and second years. Being located within a School of Arts provides a unique opportunity for young composers to work in a cross disciplinary mode, whether collaborating with drama, film or fine arts students in the senior years. Wits Music also provides excellent opportunities for the performance of student works by professional and semi-professional performers in a vibrant and creative atmosphere.

In the third year of composition studies, the proficiencies taught traverse original works

composed in contemporary art music, sound design and composition for film and television, and pop song production.

Jazz arranging and Western orchestration techniques are introduced towards the writing for smaller ensembles. Music technology forms an integral component of the courses, both for audio processing purposes as well as for notating scores.

The fourth year Composition Studies course is comprised of two separate courses, namely, Theory and Analysis, and a Portfolio of compositions. These are offered in four modules: Western art music composition, Pop and jazz arranging and composition, Electronic musics and their technologies, Screen music composition.

Much of this portfolio is performed and screened in the celebrated Sound Us Out concerts at the end of the year. These have included a presentation of the year's 'Out of Body' project in which fourth year students teamed up with students from Digital Arts to create interactive electronic works that were manipulated in performance by bodily movement of the composers.



## The Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

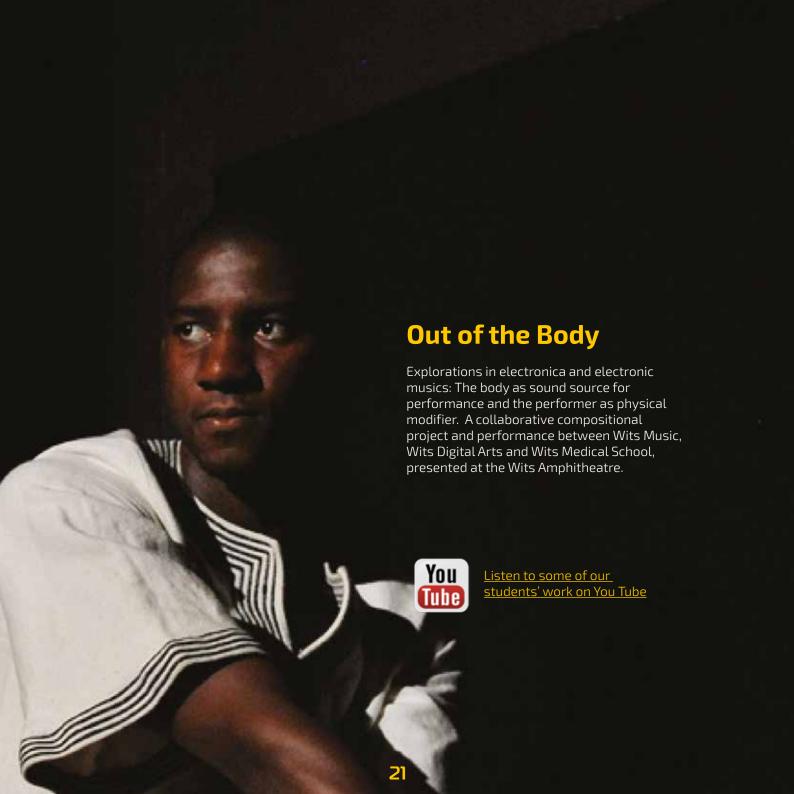
The Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) is a teaching qualification for students who have completed a BMus, BADA or BAFA. In the year-long PGCE course, you will learn the teaching methodologies and gain Creative

Arts subject knowledge necessary to become an effective teacher. The PGCE encourages a critical, imaginative approach to curriculum implementation, and for addressing the broader issues and complexities of education in South Africa. Qualifying students as high school teachers, the PGCE enables you to emerge with confidence in your own subject knowledge, with the knowledge and skills needed to structure and motivate the learning of others and with the capacity to contribute to the lives of your learners, your schools, and education in South Africa. For further information, go to the Wits School of Education's website or direct enquiries to Janet Ditlopo 011 717 3023 | janet.ditlopo@wits.ac.za.

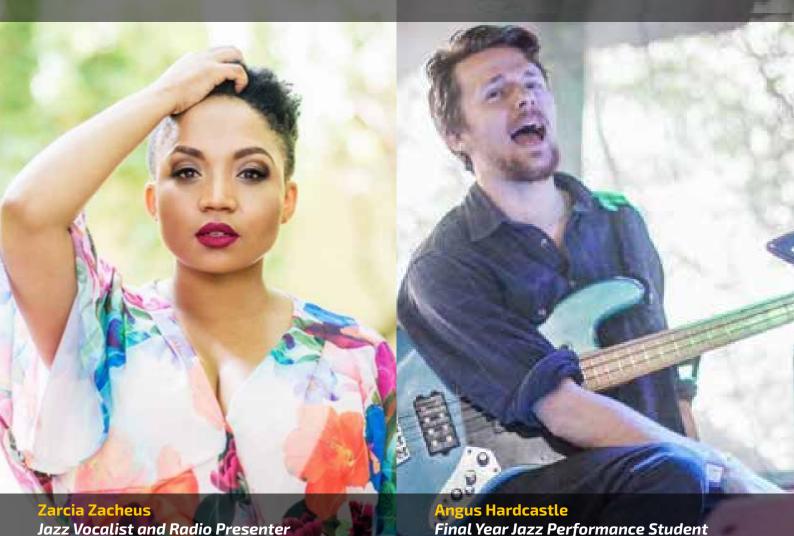


Wits Music has the largest and most diverse group of composers on the staff of any university in the country.

Wits Music composition students have the privilege of their music being performed by international ensembles – the most recent being the Catalyst Quartet from New York who workshopped the final year student string quartets in what was a vibrantly productive experience for all.



# Wits Music students

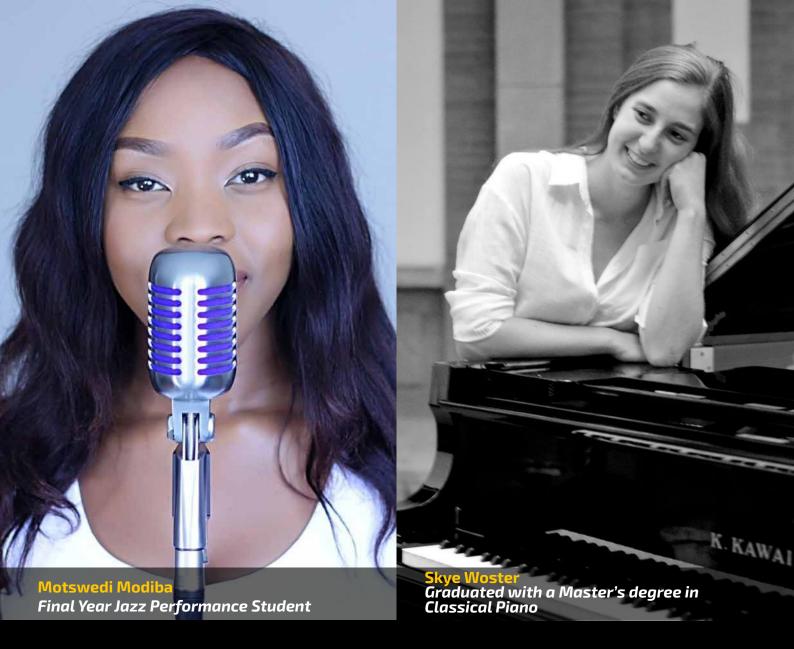


Jazz Vocalist and Radio Presenter

"Wits granted me the platform to gain much needed

"Wits granted me the platform to gain much needed performance experience. I acquired much needed skills, covering all aspects from putting together a concert, rehearsing a band to handling the music business aspect of it all. The performances were put together in such a professional manner. It was an amazing and important part of my journey as a musician."

"Wits Music has given me a very wide range of musical experiences and knowledge bases to explore. I have been given access to some of most forward thinking, knowledgeable musicians, and musicologists in South Africa. I am inspired by their passion and dedication to our craft."



"Studying music at Wits has not only helped me develop my musicianship, but my business and critical thinking skills as well. As I start to embark on a professional career, my time at Wits has proven to be extremely helpful in preparation for this journey." "After five years in the Wits Music Department for my BMus and MMus degrees, I found the experience both enriching and challenging academically and musically and, on a personal level, feel that I was pushed to new heights as a pianist."



### **Academic Music Studies**

Wits Music has one of the strongest intellectual traditions of music scholarship in the country. The founder of South African music scholarship, Percival Kirby, was at Wits, as was the pioneering John Blacking who put South African music scholarship on the world map. This tradition continues today and as a result, Wits Music students receive an academic education that is wide-ranging and rigorous. Testament to this is that Wits Music graduates regularly win major scholarships to study further overseas. Recent graduates are currently pursuing postgraduate study at some of the world's top institutions, such as Oxford, Stanford, and New York Universities.

From the outset, we endeavour to broaden music students' thinking to include the study of the arts beyond their immediate home discipline. The academic major of the BMus degree begins with the first year course in Film, Visual and Performing Arts. The second and third years comprise six courses in Critical Music Studies. The second-year courses introduce students to the historical and social study of music drawing on a variety of musical examples from different cultures and historical times.

So, in a module on the keyboard, students learn about the sixteenth-century virginal alongside the synthesizer, and the piano in South African jazz together with the nineteenth-century classical piano. Third-year music history courses include Music and the Theatre (think Verdi opera and Mbongeni Ngema's Sarafina!); Music, Sound and the Moving Image (from Hollywood blockbusters to video game music); Musical Modernisms; and Music in Contemporary Lives, which explores and debates the ethical place of music in society.

In the final year of study, all students complete a course in Music Criticism, in which they produce, amongst other work, a radio documentary broadcast on Voice of Wits Radio or write a research essay accompanied by an academic blog. Professional broadcasters and journalists guest teach on this course. Students who intend to specialise in music research can elect to do a Long Essay, in which they undertake independent research, under the guidance of a supervisor, on a topic of their choice.



# The Wits environment is especially for those wishing to take advantage of an atmosphere rich in research and creativity.

### **Postgraduate Studies**

Postgraduate students are offered two Master's degree options, namely the MA by research only, where the degree requirement is a dissertation and the MMus by creative work and dissertation.

Traditionally, the creative work has taken the form of music performance or composition, but the MMus also allows for work in other areas such as arrangement or a combination of transcription, analysis and performance. The MMus thus enables students to undertake a practical project which is then linked thematically to a short research thesis. Similarly our PhD programme is also available for students wishing to do research only, or for those who wish to undertake degree studies with a creative component.

Due to the wide range of interests and research specialisations of our staff, we offer supervision in a diverse range of topics, including South African music, western art music, jazz, and popular music studies. Our practical and composition staff work within various sound-scapes of music and so many students with broad ranges of research interests and areas of focus find a "research home" at Wits.

### Music Research

The Wits environment is especially conducive for those wishing to take advantage of a rich research and creative atmosphere, offering exciting research options for its students. The School of Arts offers regular seminars and beyond the School itself, the Graduate Centre for the Humanities makes it possible for students to attend workshops on various research skills offering exciting research options. Students are welcome to attend seminars offered by different departments at the university and in this regard, with the many conferences taking place at Wits and in Johannesburg, students are spoilt for choice.



Dr Susan Harrop-Allin



Mr Adeyemi Oladiran

# **Community Music**

In the fourth year of your BMUs, students can specialise in Community Music, which is an emerging and exciting field of music study. Community Music (CM) involves musicians from any music discipline working with diverse groups of people to enable active and creative participation in musicking. It focuses on the benefits and meanings of music in people's lives. Wits Community Music is the first academic course of its kind in Africa. By doing the course, you will help to establish CM as an important discipline in South Africa and contribute to a growing area of international research and practice.

# So what will you study and what will you do in Community Music?

# Critical frameworks and perspectives: Community Music in theory and practice

The course is both theoretical and practical, beginning with a critical consideration of what community music means and an exploration of CM's central concerns: participation, inclusion, diversity and democracy. Throughout the course, you will investigate the role and efficacy of music-making in social development,



Link to tshikona traditional Venda music in haMakuva.

in community-building and how musicking relates to personal growth and healing.

# Professional development: creative musical leadership and service learning

Part of the course entails you applying your own musicianship to help others. Music facilitation sessions focus on learning practical music-making skills to apply with groups you will work with in a community music organisation. You'll take part in a service-learning/arts community engagement project in the form of a fieldtrip to a rural area, where you'll participate in cultural exchange and collaborative performance activities, children's music workshops and homestays in a local village. According to past students, the fieldtrip was the highlight of their music degree because they learnt so much about themselves, about others, and the power of music to effect change.

Learning to become a community musician is part of a growing trend for musicians to develop portfolio careers. The course serves as an ideal preparation for becoming a teacher, as so many BMus graduates do; or to do a Post-graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) or become a music leader in the arts NGO and education sectors.



Wits Music Community Music students perform in a children's hospital ward



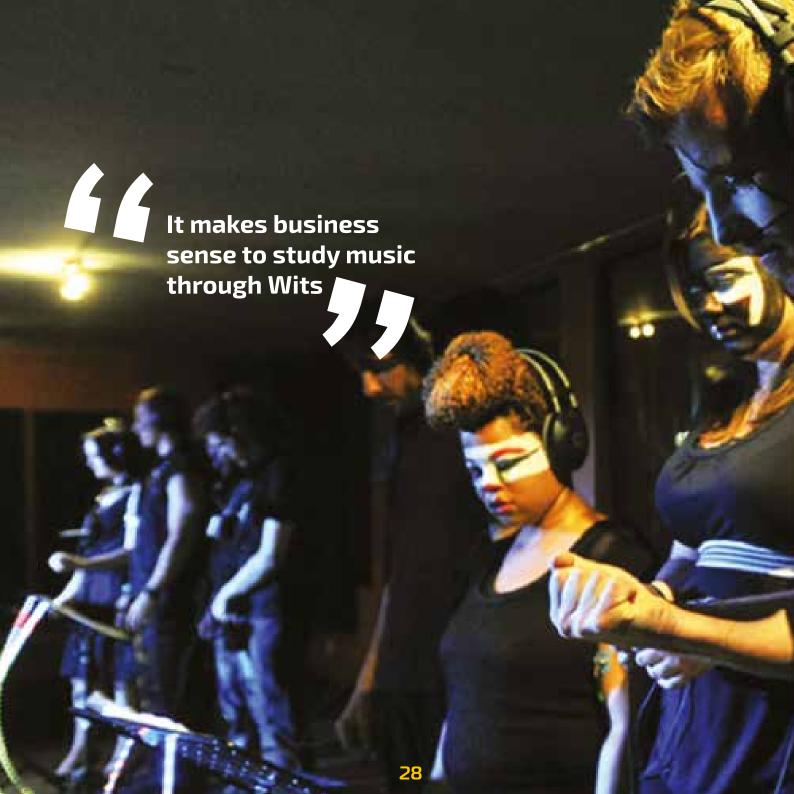














usic Business Studies is a compulsory course taken in the final year of the BMus. Taught by leading industry specialists it covers diverse topics needed to understand, practice, and earn a living from music as a twenty-first-century business: copyright law, entrepreneurial models, music publishing, and marketing, amongst many others. We are the only university in the country to have such a course in the final year of study, the year before students enter the world of work.

Students who have an interest in the area can opt to take additional courses in arts administration, management, and marketing offered in other divisions in the School of Arts. Recent graduates now work at the South African Music Rights Organisation (SAMRO), the SABC, the Goethe Institute, and provincial and national departments of arts and culture.

# **CAREERS**

Studying music at Wits means studying towards a career in music. That's why the BMus is called a professional degree: it aims to give you skills and knowledge specific to working in the world of music.

The types of careers in music are numerous. Some musicians focus on performance: a guitarist in a rock band, a singer-actor in a musical, a trumpeter in a classical music orchestra, musical director of a church's music. Some performers make it as soloists, most perform in groups, as session musicians, piano accompanists, backing vocalists or band members. Composers can earn a living doing film and TV scoring, writing music for adverts and/or arranging music for a myriad of scenarios. For those interested in music education there's an ongoing international demand for music teachers, both freelance and school-based. Music and arts therapy is increasingly recognised by the health sector.

Sound engineers, recording producers, and music technologists are central to the billion-dollar recording industry. Music opens up opportunities to work in the media and broadcasting industries. Governmental arts and culture organisations employ music practitioners and there are numerous NGO and community organisations that have a developmental focus on music.

BMus students sometimes do short postgraduate diplomas or degrees to complement their music studies: in business and/or marketing for entry into the business side of the music industry, in education to prepare themselves for a career as a teacher, in law to specialise in entertainment law, or in journalism or media studies to work in the media industries. In these instances, a BMus doesn't limit one's employment opportunities; it also enables entry into niche sectors of other industries.



### **Sean Jacobs**

### Wits performance graduate (Jazz voice)

Wits has granted me the platform to become a well-rounded musician. Through offering a great scope of music courses ranging from Music History to Digital Music Technology, Wits Music has broadened my musical knowledge across genres. The challenging academic environment has pushed me to strive towards always being on top of my game. The vibrant atmosphere at the Wits School of Arts makes Wits the perfect destination for young aspiring musicians who wish to develop their craft.

I feel very fortunate to have been mentored by some of South Africa's finest musicians and musical directors. Through their support and guidance I have been able to carve out an exciting, multifaceted singing career for myself, which involves travelling and working with incredible musicians. Wits is the perfect blend of hard work and fun; Wits gives you the Edge!





Wits Music has a range of custom-built facilities that provide a backbone to the various elements of the degree.

Composition students enjoy access to a computer laboratory housing 22 Pro Tools recording systems, each with a controller keyboard and dual monitors. This laboratory is adjacent to the music studio, with a recoding room and control room. It houses a large Pro Tools system, studio monitors, a Yamaha baby grand piano, drum kit and a large selection of microphones. There is a second, small lab with Apple workstations used by senior students for film composition.

Performance students have access to a range of different venues. The Music Room is a teaching and ensemble

space which seats 80 students along with a full PA system, staging, a selection of amplifiers, a baby grand piano and drum kit.

Weekly Combined Practical classes are held in the Wits Great Hall, where the best performances from all genres within the division are staged. Here students perform on a Steinway concert grand piano.

As part of the School of Arts, Wits Music also enjoys access to the Wits Theatre complex. Many concerts are held here including regular appearances from artists in the jazz and experimental fields, while the jazz specialisation and ensemble students perform their final concerts in the Wits Theatre Amphitheatre. Finally, many concerts are held in the Wits Atrium, a beautiful chamber music venue with organ.

# **How to Apply**

### The application to a music degree has two parts:

- 1. Application to the University of the Witwatersrand
- 2. Application to the Music Division

The first thing to do is make your application to the University. **Apply online** at Student Enrolment Centre (SENC). For this you need a 34 APS (Admission Points Score) and 60% for English. If you achieve 30-33 points you will be waitlisted.

If you are accepted and have requested to apply for a BMus degree, it's time to begin your application to the Music Division and contact the Wits School of Arts student liaison officer who will assist you in setting up an audition.

# The auditions typically take place from September through December and are in three parts: Audition Requirements

- Performing two pieces on the instrument/voice you wish to study. These pieces should be from different genres.
   Doing some rhythmic and pitch based aural exercises.
- 2. Completing a short theory test, a specimen test of which is available here.
- 3. An interview with Music staff to discuss what it is you would like out of a music degree based on a series of short written answers you submit before the audition.

Based on the outcome of this audition, you will be offered a place in the degree or the Foundation Programme.

For enquiries to the Student Enrolment Centre call 011 717 1888 or go to www.wits.ac.za/askwits

Photography: Christo Doherty



R30 000 due to fewer courses taken.

Through the course of the degree you may earn various merit-based scholarships and awards to help toward your fees.

Students may also apply at the **Financial Aid Office** or apply directly to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) on their website. National Arts Council bursaries are sometimes available. The amount and application date changes from year to year. The cost of courses and registration fees vary from year to year, so please consult the University website and use the fees calculator as you begin your application process for a more accurate estimate. SAMRO bursaries are available to students from the second year of study on. These are applied for online and the application deadline is normally at the end of March.

