



Maestro Programme

Preparation Work 1

Any questions or problems then please email me :
david.wall@sjr.ac.uk

Don't worry, you don't have to understand everything and we will be going over this in class when we start College!

Don't forget to follow our social media accounts:

- [Facebook.com/SjrPerformingArts](https://www.facebook.com/SjrPerformingArts)
- [Instagram.com/sjr.performingarts](https://www.instagram.com/sjr.performingarts)



The programme

The Maestro Programme is designed for students who are looking at further study and an eventual career path into music.

The programme allows students to take a Level 3 Certificate for Music Practitioners from RSL Vocational Qualifications.

Students can study **one** of four different pathways:

- Performance
- Composition
- Music Technology
- Music Business

This course will take one lesson per week during a students' first year at College and will lead to the production of an individual project. Although you will have a teacher supervising the project, the work is highly independent, and therefore it is highly regarded by Universities as it proves that you have what it takes to be a self-motivated learner and complete your own research.

In the performance pathway, students will plan and carry out their own performance. In past years, most performance students have decided to work as a group and create a charity performance evening. You will then evaluate the performance. You will plan everything from sound, lighting, health & safety, refreshments etc.

In the composition pathway, students will complete two compositions in different styles. Students should research the styles intended and create their own piece in a stylistic realisation.

In the music technology pathway, students will create a sequenced piece of work using audio and midi and a set of specified technological devices.

In the music business pathway, students create their own product and market this ensuring they gain the skills of an entrepreneur. You will look at marketing, product distribution and will look at the skills other entrepreneurs have - comparing them to your skills.

In this booklet, you can have a look at some of the preparation work and the assignment briefs that will be set for each unit to give you a chance to have a think about which pathway you might choose.

Performance

Preparation Work:

- Research different performers and what sort of a persona they have.

All performers have a persona that they have created. This includes costume, how they act, how they talk, how they react to the media.

Start to look at:

- Image portrayal
 - Clothing / costumes
 - Make up
 - Hairstyle
 - Stance
- Performance persona
 - Speaking voice
 - Kind, quiet, confident, smiling, angry?

Here is a great article online for you to have a look at:

<https://www.isingmag.com/developing-a-performance-persona/>

Use the internet to do more research and decide what your persona would be. Copy and paste images of looks and artists you like.

Create a fact file about choices you would like and choices you wouldn't make. You may want to think about who your audience would be and what instrument you play...for example, a pop singer is unlikely to wear a bow tie and tailcoat, however, a classical pianist is unlikely to wear ripped jeans and a t-shirt.

The tasks at College you will complete on the assignment are:

Task 1: You must create a presentation to explain your aims of the project and what are your goals for achievement in completing The Maestro Programme.

Task 2: You are to plan and create a performance event as your Maestro Programme project.

Task 3: Each performer must perform at least 2 pieces of music each where that performer has a leading role.

Task 4: Create a log-book which evidences the entire process of the project and your research process throughout your work. This will also be your way to evaluate the project and your work at the end of the programme.

Composition

Preparation Work:

- Research different styles of composition and decide on two styles you would like to compose in for your project..

Make a list of all the features of that style e.g. instruments, structures etc.

Make a timeline plan for your piece on how you would want it to sound – you are best to emulate a composition you like in that specific style.

Keep all the information ready for starting the programme.

The tasks at College you will complete on the assignment are:

Task 1: Create two compositions that are contrasting in style. You must write scores / musical representations for each.

Task 2: You must keep a log-book of all your activity during the composition process. This will also be used to evaluate your work at the end of the project.

Task 3: Create an evaluation of how well your composition meets the requirements of the original style you chose. What would you do the same again? What would you do differently?

Music Technology

Preparation Work:

- Download a free DAW online or use a DAW that you already have.
- Start creating some small ideas using midi that could be included in your project.
- Research using sampler instruments (most specifically for creating drum patches)
- Research insert and send effects and how to use them in a project on Logic Pro X (you do not need to do it, but you should try to understand them)
 - There are some great YouTube videos for this.

The tasks at College you will complete on the assignment are:

Task 1: Create a project using a minimum of ten software instruments and at least two audio tracks containing two original synth patches that should be highly creative and original

Task 2: Utilise at least four of the following: Oscillators, envelopes (ADSR), pitch, filters, LFOs

Task 3: Use a sampler to create the following patches: drum patch, melodic/pitched-based patch and use looping where applicable.

Task 4: Use quantize to correct work

Task 5: Use at least four inserts and four send effects

Task 6: Use automation on at least two parameters and a software instrument and effects unit

Task 7: Display accurate and efficient use of DAW including removing unused audio files

Task 8: Create a highly detailed project log including before and after screenshots and display a deep understanding of the process through an evaluation of the project assessing strengths and areas for development offering viable solutions

Music Business

Preparation Work:

- Research different types of music product and try to find an 'innovation'. For example, last year, students created a new design of music stand and a record label.
- During the programme, you will be asked to give a business pitch like those seen on the TV show *Dragon's Den*. It is well worth watching a couple of episodes to get a flavour of what we will be looking for from your business plan and pitch.

The tasks at College you will complete on the assignment are:

Task 1: You are to develop a business idea for a product or service. You must create a business plan for this and present it in a 'dragon's den' style pitch to some industry experts. You should look at market research and create a fully working business plan for your idea.

Task 2: Now you have created your business plan and gained feedback from the panel, you are to compile a portfolio that collates a range of evidence on music entrepreneurs and identifies common traits and characteristics of entrepreneurs. You should evaluate your own abilities, skills and traits using a skills audit and compare your skills to those identified in 1.1.

Task 3: You must evaluate your learning from undertaking this assignment. You will create a career focused action plan that highlights how you might apply what you have learned to planning to set up a music business in the future. You should take into consideration the feedback you were given by the panel after your business pitch.