

# THE SONGWRITER

## MUSIC COLLEGE

### Diploma in Songwriting and Music Production

#### Qualification Modules and Hours

S/N	Code	Module Name	Face-to-Face Contact Hours	Self-Learning Hours
1	CS001	Modern Production Essentials	36	18
2	CS002	Melody Writing	36	18
3	CS003	Ear Training	18	9
4	CS004	Lyrics Writing	36	18
5	CS005	Studio Techniques	36	18
6	CS006	Music Business and Marketing Essentials	36	18
7	CS007	Creative Thinking	18	9
8	PS008	Writing Commercial Music for Moving Images	36	18
9	PS009	Music Arrangement for Popular Music	36	18
10	PS010	Mixing and Mastering	36	18
11	PS011	Music Production Analysis	36	18
12	PS012	Essential Skills of a Record Producer	36	18
13	PS013	Live Sound Essentials	36	18
14	FYP	Final Year Project		240
			<b>432</b>	<b>456</b>
		<b>Total Learning Hours</b>	<b>888</b>	

#### Module Synopsis

##### CS 001: Modern Production Essentials

This module equips students with knowledge and skills essential for songwriters in the 21st century. A range of topics covered include key roles in songwriting, songwriting workflow, music copyrights, basic music theory, synthesis and digital audio workstation (DAW). These foundational knowledge and skills form the basic ingredients that would prepare songwriters to both create up-to-date works at professional level, as well as negotiate effectively, efficiently and professionally in a contextually updated manner when dealing, working and collaborating with others in the music industry today.

##### CS 002: Melody Writing

This module deals with knowledge and skills needed for melody writing in the context of songwriting for popular music markets. Students will learn song forms of popular music genres of different markets, primary (motif), secondary (musical form) and tertiary (song structure) components of songs, as well as approaches in creative writing that will culminate in producing what is termed a hit song.

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### CS 003: Ear Training

This module aims to develop the quintessential skills of listening to music and analysing it from a technical perspective. This course comprises of 2 segments: 1) from a musician's perspective, students will learn how to listen to rhythm, time-signature, pitch and the relationship between note intervals, 2) from an engineer's perspective students will learn how to listen to frequencies and how it affects different instruments (vocals, guitar, bass drums). At the end of the module, students will be able analyse audio materials, identify unique musical ideas and integrate it into their repertoire.

### CS 004: Lyrics Writing

This module introduces students to different approaches towards lyrics writing, as well as techniques of lyrics writing as part of the songwriting process. Students will appreciate how lyrics are written differently for different contexts. Students will learn how to make use of concepts and various available tools for creative writing. Students will also be taught how to systematically and strategically approach the writing process for effective storytelling.

### CS 005: Studio Techniques

This module equips students with the essential skills to effectively operate professional audio equipment. Students will learn how microphones, microphone preamplifiers and outboard gear operate; safe operating procedures; microphone characteristics, placement and essential studio signal flow to achieve the highest quality of audio production in a professional studio environment. Students will apply the knowledge learnt in this module to create professional-sounding audio recordings for song productions.

### CS 006: Music Business and Marketing Essentials

This module aims to prepare students to build a sustainable career within the music industry by providing them with a strong fundamental understanding and overview of the music business. This module will introduce: 1) Various key players in the music industry which includes publishing houses, labels, management companies, publicists, etc. 2) Singapore copyright laws and employment rights for a freelancer. 3) Impart practical skills like creating a feasible online portfolio, building a network, understanding target audiences, social media management and more.

### CS 007: Creative Thinking

This module aims to introduce to students, concepts in creative thinking, in a general sense not necessarily and specifically only targeted directly at any aspects of the songwriting process per se. The lessons for this module are filled with class activities that inform, inspire and allow students to explore and question what creativity is, how it may be evoked, and how it can be guided to fruition. Understanding creative thinking in a general sense would then allow students to translate this skill to different aspects of the songwriting processes as students move on to these aspects in their practices when they encounter the various other modules in this course, and indeed also as they develop into professional songwriting practitioners.

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### PS 008: Writing Commercial Music for Moving Images

This module covers the knowledge, techniques and skills needed for composing music (songs, jingles, film scoring, mood music, library music etc.) for moving images in audio post production, whether it is for full feature films, movie trailers, TV commercials, online commercials, corporate videos, drama series, documentaries, animations, games or production music libraries. The module will also introduce the basics in creative management and industry practices in audio post production.

### PS 009: Music Arrangement for Popular Music

This module deals with knowledge and skills needed for music arrangement in the context of songwriting for popular music markets. Students will learn music arrangement ranging from organic to electronic music genres, as well as how music arrangement style differs among different markets. Students will experiment with both audio and MIDI recordings, as well as the use of loops and samples in their music arrangement.

### PS 0010: Mixing and Mastering

This module equips students to prepare a song for the post-production stage and deliver it for online publishing and distribution. Topics include mixing concepts; tools used for tone shaping, audio levelling and time-space localisation. Students will explore traditional mixing workflow and modern mixing workflow; being able to describe the differences in both processes and determine the best pathway for a song.

### PS 011: Music Production Analysis

The module equips students with the essential skills to analyse music and dissect the elements which make them up. Students will be exposed to various genres of music spanning across eras and participate in in-class discussion as well as individual research and presentation on these genres.

### PS 012: Essential Skills of a Record Producer

This module deals with the knowledge of the anatomy, expression and techniques of common instruments used in creating a commercial pop song. Students will learn how to communicate using terminologies each instrumentalist is familiar with and thus more effectively conveying their message across in a regular studio recording context.

### PS 013: Live Sound Essentials

This module aims to equip students with essential knowledge of managing professional live sound equipment used in live performances. Students will be taught principles of the live sound environment and various methods to setup, tune and run a live show.

### FYP Final Year Project

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As part of the curriculum, all students of the school are required to undertake a project supervised by the facilitators. The Final Year Project Committee of our school will be entrusted to oversee the coordination of all final year projects. The Committee has prepared this set of guidelines so that all students are aware of the various project requirements in terms of project schedule, project report, and presentation.

### Assessment

Code	Module Name	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Assessment 3
CS001	Modern Production Essentials	30% Formative	70% Summative	
CS002	Melody Writing	50% Formative	50% Summative	
CS003	Ear Training	50% Formative	20% Class Participation	30% Summative
CS004	Lyrics Writing	30% Formative	70% Summative	
CS005	Studio Techniques	10% Formative	35% Summative	50% Summative
CS006	Music Business and Marketing Essentials	50% Formative	50% Summative	
CS007	Creative Thinking	40% Formative	60% Summative	
PS008	Writing Commercial Music for Moving Images	40% Formative	60% Summative	
PS009	Music Arrangement for Popular Music	50% Formative	50% Summative	
PS010	Mixing and Mastering	10% Formative	25% Summative	60% Summative
PS011	Music Production Analysis	35% Formative	60% Summative	
PS012	Essential Skills of a Record Producer	20% Formative	65% Summative	
PS013	Live Sound Essentials	10% Formative	25% Summative	50% Summative
FYP	Final Year Project	100%		