Faculty of the VCA and MCM
The Faculty of the VCA and MCM is one of Australia’s leading institutions for education and training in the visual and performing arts, where creative people from a diverse range of cultures gain the skills, inspiration and confidence to thrive in a competitive environment.

The Faculty’s Southbank campus combines all of the facilities of seven disciplines and two centres dedicated to educating and training artists in the following art forms: visual art, dance, film and television, music, music theatre, production and theatre practice.

The Faculty enjoys wide recognition among the international arts community. It is a member of the European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA); the International Council of Fine Arts Deans (ICFAD); the International Association of Film and Television Schools (CILECT); the Australian Council of University Art and Design Schools (ACUADS) and is an international affiliate of the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD).

Contemporary Music
Students from around the world are attracted to the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Contemporary Music) as it provides students with the education and training needed to become a multifaceted, contemporary musician. The course allows you to major in one of two areas - Contemporary Music Performance or Interactive Composition.

The program is built on a commercial and contemporary music making model that propagates both specialisation and cross-disciplinary collaboration that is mentor driven, practice based and industry linked. Content is both specialised and diverse and, for example might include: creating music for gaming, animation and film and contemporary performance improvisation in jazz and world music. The VCA School of Contemporary Music provides some of the finest professional teachers and facilities in Australia for the training of musicians across a wide spectrum of music. It is directed towards educating and training you to become a first-rate professional in a multi-faceted music making environment, while developing a realistic awareness of the demands of the music profession.

The VCA provides a forum to realise contemporary music and contemporary art synergies with other VCA areas of specialisation and broadly creates a context to catalyse new synergies across the University of Melbourne and industry as a whole.

Course
Bachelor of Fine Arts (Contemporary Music) – (Exchange)

Contemporary Music Performance balances the development of technical skills with the creative processes vital to the contemporary artist, whilst maintaining an awareness of the demands of an ever-challenging profession. The program embraces improvisation in a diversity of music genres including jazz, world music, popular music, folk music, experimental, electronica, crossover music, a cappella and multi-media. It also encourages the development of the personal voice through performance practice and original compositions; these activities play an integral role in maintaining the program’s vital commitment to performance in the community at large. Contemporary Music Performance alumni are a core part of contemporary Australian music making, contributing to our local and international cultural export as contemporary improvisers, performers, composers, arrangers and producers.

Interactive Composition focuses on commercially driven cross-art modes of composition, and may include writing music for events, film, television, animation, theatre, music theatre, dance, pop song, advertising, video gaming, online sites, installation art and sound design. The learning environment is inclusive and encourages initiative, entrepreneurship and personal creative skills in a contemporary music-making context.

Throughout the course you will also undertake Critical Studies subjects that build knowledge of the context of your core discipline along with scholarly information literacy, whilst complementary studies offer a choice of electives in the visual and performing arts, or from other areas of study within the University of Melbourne. The course is characterised by the opportunity to participate in an eclectic range of concerts and interactive events reflecting the Victorian College of the Art’s ethos and commitment to contemporary music making in a broad range of musical styles and media.

Subjects
Successful exchange applicants normally enter into second year. However, this is determined upon audition and the applicant’s academic record.

Below is an example of a typical semester of the second year Contemporary Music Performance course:
## Exchange Contemporary Music

**Faculty of the VCA and MCM – Exchange – Contemporary Music**

As at 17/05/2013

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Performance Studies 3</td>
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<td>Contextual Studies 3</td>
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<td>Ensemble Studies 3</td>
<td>Ensemble Studies 4</td>
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<td>Plus an elective (see below).</td>
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Further information is available at [https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/](https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/)

**Contact hours per week:** The program has an average of 11.5 contact hours per week with an additional 21 hours of self-directed study.

**Course Duration:** 12 weeks per semester

**Tuition Fees**

Tuition fees are covered under the Exchange agreement between the University of Melbourne and your home institution.

**Material Costs**

Please note that the tuition fee does not include any costs related to instruments or any other expenses the successful applicant may incur in order to complete the course.

**Course Enquiries**

Email: vcamcm-app@unimelb.edu.au  
Telephone: 61 3 9035 9469 (Monday-Friday 9.00am –4.00pm EST)  

**Application Instructions**


2. Study Abroad and Exchange Contemporary Music Supplementary Application Form: Complete the Study Abroad and Exchange Music Supplementary Application Form. This form is on pages 4-6 of this Study Abroad Information Sheet.

3. DVD Audition: Prepare an audition on DVD using the instructions on pages 7-8 below.

4. Personal statement: Prepare a 100 word statement outlining your musical goals

5. Prepare an Audition Declaration Form. This form is on page 9 of this Study Abroad Information Sheet.

6. Send your supplementary form, personal statement, audition declaration form and audition DVD to:

   Melbourne Global Mobility  
   Ground floor, John Smyth Building  
   Swanston Street  
   The University of Melbourne  
   Parkville Victoria 3010  
   Australia

**Financial Aid for USA Students**
The University of Melbourne is able to accept USA students who are recipients of USA Federal Aid Student Loans. Applicants are required to state the University of Melbourne's school code when applying for a loan. The school code for the University of Melbourne is G08505.

Transport
The Southbank campus is located along St Kilda Road and is 20 minutes from the airport by taxi. Melbourne has an excellent public transport system with trams, buses and trains running everyday throughout the city.

Accommodation
The University of Melbourne offers a housing service to Study Abroad and Exchange students. Information about the accommodation options available, as well as the on-line application form, is available at: http://www.mobility.unimelb.edu.au/inbound/life/housing.html

Work
Part time work is possible for study abroad students, although there will be restrictions on where and the amount of hours students are allowed to work.

Achievements of our Graduates and Teachers
In 2004, two prestigious national ARIA music awards went to Faculty of the VCA and Music teachers – Andrea Keller for Best Jazz Album and Anthony Field for Best Classical Album. A bass clarinet concerto by Head Composition, Mark Pollard, was funded by the Music Board of the Australia Council and performed in the 2003 Melbourne Festival.

Recent graduating violinists Kaiyi Ma and Rochelle Bryson have been studying for their Masters degrees at the Royal Academy of Music in London where they share first prize in the Beethoven competition. Soprano Caitlin Hulcup has performed with both National Opera Studio in London and the Wiener Staatsoper in Austria.

Four new works using Magpie birdsong were created in 2004 by students of our Composition program and our Dance choreography program.

In an 18 month period which included a staff development research project in Hollywood, the Faculty of the VCA and Music's new film music composition studio saw the creation and recording of 20 new film scores by students and teaching staff.

Melbourne: the Arts Capital of Australia
The Southbank campus is located in the thriving arts precinct in Melbourne which is home to the Australian Ballet, Playbox Theatre Company, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, the Chunky Move Dance Company, the ABC Studios, the State Theatre, Hamer Concert Hall and the National Gallery of Victoria.

This vibrant cultural city is the home of the annual Melbourne International Arts Festival, the Melbourne Fringe Festival, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, the Melbourne International Film Festival and the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition.

The Economist Intelligence Unit has twice rated Melbourne the most liveable city in the world. The survey ranks 130 cities against factors such as health and safety, infrastructure, culture and environment (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2004).

Melbourne's population is over 3 million and its cultural and linguistic diversity remains an integral feature of modern Australia. Languages most commonly spoken in Australia are English, Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin.

STUDY ABROAD AND EXCHANGE
(CONTEMPORARY MUSIC)
SUPPLEMENTARY FORM

Please retain a copy of this completed form for your reference

PART A – ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE

PERSONAL DETAILS

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<td>Gender:</td>
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<td>* We will communicate with applicants via email. Please check your email, including junk and quarantine folders. Applicants are strongly advised NOT to use a hotmail address as these often go into your junk box. By using such accounts you risk failing to receive our correspondence.</td>
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PROPOSED MAJOR AREA OF STUDY WHILE ON EXCHANGE

Which major do you wish to study?
*Please note: Applicants may select both majors. This will require two (2) auditions.

Please select: (Tick box/es)
- [ ] Contemporary Music Performance
- [ ] Interactive Composition

If your major is Contemporary Music Performance:

Which instrument/s do you wish to audition? ______________________________________
*Important note: Applicants may audition on a maximum of two (2) instruments. This will require two (2) auditions.
PART B - ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE

CAREER STATEMENT
Please provide a 100 word statement outlining your musical/interactive composition goals.

IF YOUR MAJOR IS CONTEMPORARY MUSIC PERFORMANCE - COMPLETE SECTIONS 1 AND 2
Please note: Applicants may select both majors

Section 1: Proposed Audition Pieces

Section 2: Musical Background
Instrument or Vocal level attained (if applicable):
Current Teacher (include duration of study):
Previous Teachers (include duration of study):
Other musical studies undertaken, including theoretical:
Public Performances, Awards, Competitions, or other relevant activities undertaken:
IF YOUR MAJOR IS INTERACTIVE COMPOSITION – COMPLETE SECTION 3
Please note: Applicants may select both majors

Section 3: Musical Background
Please provide information on your musical experience, such as:
- Acoustic or electric performance experience, including: instrument or laptop performance, DJ mixing and hip hop rapping
- Music and/or media studies undertaken
- Composition experience, including: pop songs and music for bands, classical music, music theatre, film music, web, video games, or any other music making activity.
AUDITION AND FOLIO DVD INSTRUCTIONS

Contemporary Music Performance Stream:

1. Applicants must submit a certified DVD of their performance of two pieces demonstrating their skills as improvising performers. The repertoire MUST consist of:

- A work from the Set List
- A second choice from the following options (must contrast in style from chosen set list work):
  a) an original work (a piece composed by the applicant), or
  b) a work from other traditions, or
  c) a popular contemporary work.

2. Musicianship evaluation:

- Applicants must demonstrate their knowledge of intervals, chords, chord symbols, scales and arpeggios. Please use piano/keyboard where required.
Applicants must demonstrate their music reading ability via a recorded performance of a Study/Etude of the applicant’s choice (a fully notated work for their chosen instrument), which showcases the applicant’s highest attained level of technical and music reading ability. When submitting your DVD application, please enclose a copy of the score.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Demonstration of creativity and improvisation skills is essential to gain entrance into this major
- All performed works MUST include an **improvised solo**. That is, applicants must improvise over and with chosen repertoire, not simply perform the chosen work as scored.

Interactive Composition Stream:

1. Composition Folio

Applicants must submit a composition folio. The folio MUST contain recordings of 3 or 4 original compositions. These can be full works or sections of works. Total duration must be no more than ten (10) minutes.

This can include recordings of your original music from any source such as: pop songs, concert music, band music, laptop performance, hip hop rapping, music theatre music, film music, or music for dance or other media, such as music for games, advertising and web use.

The folio MUST contain a notated music score of at least one (1) of your original compositions. The folio will be evaluated on the level of compositional craft and creativity and suitability for interactive composition.

2. Creative Task

Imagine you are asked to create a sound installation for an unusual location e.g. warehouse, kitchen or National Park.

Verbally describe, in 5 minutes, how you would creatively approach this request. Submit your description in audio CD or DVD format.

3. Performance

A three (3) minute (approximately) performance of one of your works. This can be instrumental, vocal, and/or electronic, such as lap top performance or DJ mixing.
STUDY ABROAD AND EXCHANGE (CONTEMPORARY MUSIC)

AUDITION DECLARATION FORM

PERSONAL DETAILS (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Title:
Family Name:
First Given Name:
Preferred Given Name:
Email: *We will communicate with applicants via email. Please check your email, including junk and quarantine folders. Applicants are strongly advised NOT to use a hotmail address as these often go into your junk box. By using such accounts you risk failing to receive our correspondence.

Telephone: Area Code (  )
Mobile:
Address Line 1:
Address Line 2:
Suburb: State: Postcode:
Country:

RECORDED AUDITION DECLARATION:

I, ________________________________ (applicant’s name), certify that the enclosed recording/folio is an unedited and genuine recording of me/my work.

Applicant’s Signature: ________________________________ Date: __________________

I, ________________________________ (name), being the practical teacher/professional musician of the above applicant, certify that I have listened to the enclosed recording/reviewed the enclosed folio, and guarantee it truly represents the applicant’s current ability as a performer.

Signature: ________________________________ Date: __________________