



# Composing Music 2

Course Author: Alan Beal

Level 2 (HE5), 60 Credits



**Simon Burgess**

'I am currently a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy. I am studying the *Composing Music 2* course with Patric Stanford as my tutor. This course enables me to keep my musical knowledge current and improve my abilities in arranging and composition.'

Simon achieved a Grade A on assessment of the work he did for OCA's *Composing Music 1* course.

## Registered Office

The Michael Young Arts Centre,  
Open College of the Arts,  
Unit 1B,  
Redbrook Business Park,  
Wilthorpe Road,  
Barnsley,  
South Yorkshire,  
S75 1JN

## Charity number:

327446

## Aims of the course

This course aims to help you to continue to build up a portfolio of your own music which has been performed, as far as is possible, on to tape by yourself or your tutor. It introduces you to choral and instrumental writing, and extends your harmonic vocabulary.

## Course content

During the course you will:

- learn to use more complex music harmony (contrapuntal techniques)
- learn to understand, follow and arrange a choral or orchestral score
- be given the opportunity to develop your fluency in the language of music
- explore the music and styles of other composers
- learn to analyse and draw inspiration from scores and performances of great works of other composers
- learn to use various accompaniment styles
- understand the ranges and technicalities of orchestral instruments and be able to compose instrumental music
- develop an understanding of expressing your own feelings and emotions through music.

The music of established composers is presented throughout the course, always in order to make or emphasise some musical point within the text. The understanding of harmony is developed to include borrowed chords and chromatic harmony. Contrapuntal techniques are introduced. There is consideration of writing piano accompaniments. Composing instrumental music (chamber and orchestral) and choral music complete the second half of the course.

## Teaching methods

The course is presented to students in the form of specially written course materials and is accompanied by a set of CDs. Wherever music appears in written form in the course

materials, the students are able to hear a performance of it on CD. The techniques of composition (musical ideas, how to come by them, how to develop them, how to build a substantial whole piece of music, etc.) are progressively presented throughout the course.

Each personal tutor is a practising musician, with appropriate academic qualifications and teaching experience.

## Learning outcomes

Having completed this course students should be able to:

- understand and use complex rhythmic, melodic and harmonic ideas in their own compositions
- understand and use various accompaniment styles and contrapuntal techniques
- compose and score choral music
- understand the ranges and techniques of composing for orchestral instruments
- analyse and draw inspiration from the scores and performances of the works of other composers
- demonstrate an extended knowledge of the evolution and styles of music

## Assessment requirements

2 extended pieces of personally composed music are submitted. The scores of the pieces must be fully written out and should be accompanied by a recorded performance on CD or cassette.

90% of the marks are awarded for the artistic merit of the compositions. The final 10% of the marks are awarded for the readability, the correct use of music writing conventions, the clarity and the conciseness of the student's written style.

*Please note that assessment is not mandatory unless the student wants accreditation of their work.*

Visit our website: [www.oca-uk.com](http://www.oca-uk.com)  
Email enquiries: [open.arts@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:open.arts@ukonline.co.uk)

Tel: 0800 731 2116  
Fax: 01226 730838