

## VCE Music Investigation Units 3 & 4

### OVERVIEW

NCAT attracts talented music students who are committed to achieving their best, which provides an exciting learning environment in which all students are valued and challenged.

In this subject, students select a work from a prescribed list as the basis for an investigation of a Focus Area. They explore the Focus Area through three complementary areas of study: Investigation, Composition/arrangement/improvisation, and Performance.

Area of Study 1, 'Investigation', involves research into background contextual issues relevant to performance practice, critical listening to recordings of performances and examination of texts including musical scores. Students present a report that discusses characteristics, techniques and performance practices of works representative of a Focus Area.

Area of Study 2, 'Composition/arrangement/improvisation', involves applying these research findings to create a folio of exercises, sketches or recorded improvisations that demonstrate understanding of the characteristics of the Focus Area.

Area of Study 3, 'Performance', involves the planning, rehearsal and performance of a program of works that are representative of the Focus Area. Students develop relevant instrumental and performance techniques and apply performance practices. Together these areas of study require students to apply extensive skills in performance, aural awareness, transcription, music theory and analysis.

On completion of this unit the student should be able to evaluate and present their interpretive approach to a program of works; they should be able to compose, improvise, arrange and perform a music work and discuss the use of music characteristics, instrumental techniques, performance techniques and conventions in the work; and they should be able to demonstrate artistic intent and understanding of the Focus Area in a cohesive and engaging performance of music works.

NCAT is equipped with state-of-the-art rehearsal room facilities, a recording studio, music classrooms with state-of-the-art music software, and a vast range of quality musical instruments and hardware available for student use.

### ASSESSMENT

In this subject, students present a report that discusses characteristics, techniques and performance practices of works representative of a Focus Area; they create composition, improvisation and /or arrangement exercises that demonstrate understanding of the characteristic use of elements of music and performance practices representative of the Focus Area; and they perform technical work and exercises relevant to the Focus Area and provide a description of how this technical work informs development of the performance program. In Unit 4, students present an externally assessed, live performance of at least four contrasting works that relate to the Focus Area.

#### SUBJECT PREREQUISITES

Entry into all NCAT music programs is by audition and interview.

A high level of musicianship and a good knowledge of music theory and analysis are required for entry into VCE Music Investigation Units 3 & 4 at NCAT.

Successful completion of Unit 3 is a prerequisite to Unit 4 in this study.

Students are strongly recommended to undertake Music Performance Units 3 and 4 before, or in the same year that they undertake Music Investigation Units 3 and