



# Music Technology

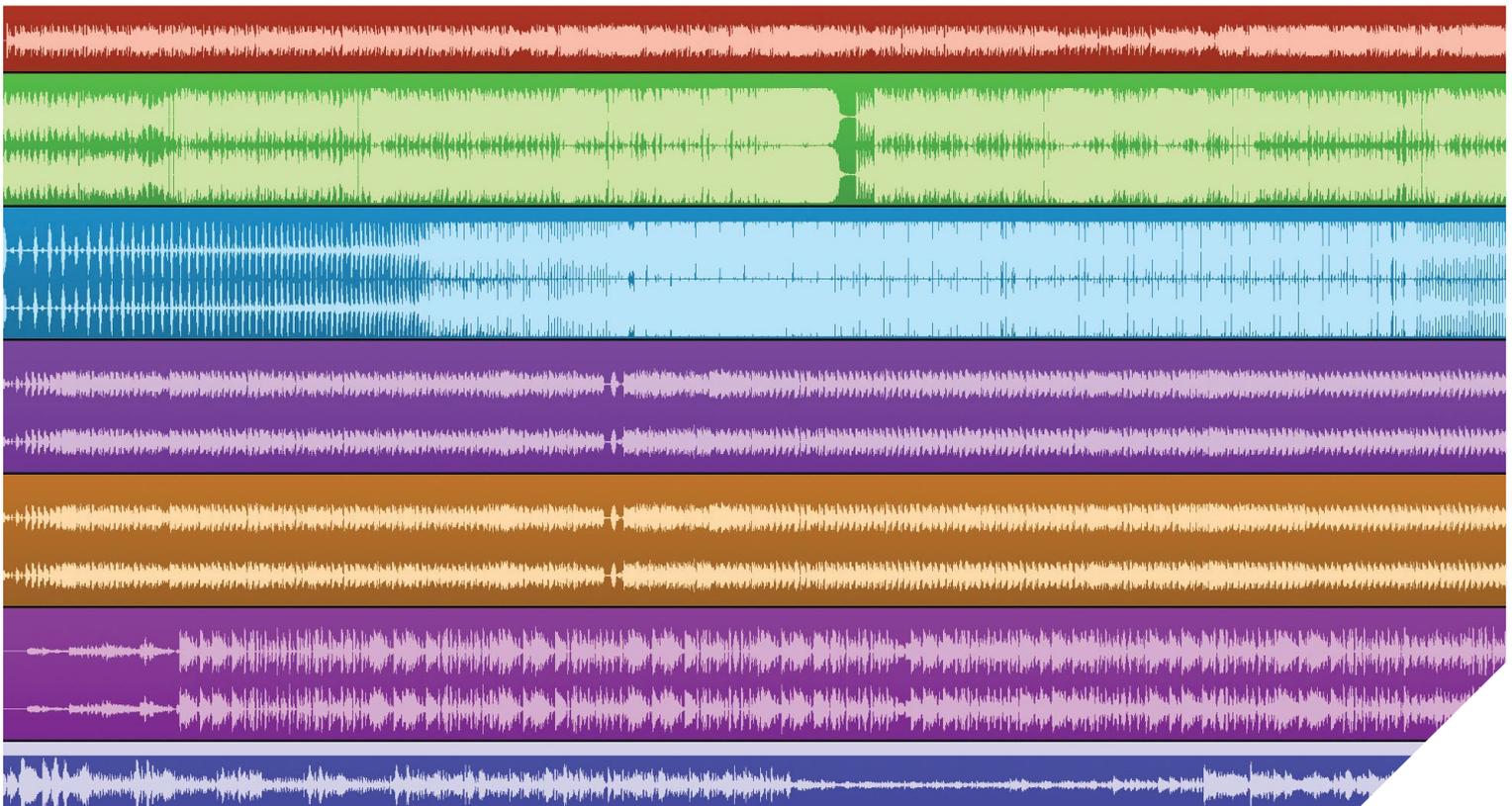
Old traditions – new directions

The music world of today is comprised of overlapping media and technologies. What once were separate styles and genres are no longer so rigidly defined. New music professionals will need to possess a range of skill-sets in order to be knowledgeable in a variety of areas.

The Music Technology programme caters to any music genre or style, from classical to traditional folk music, from jazz to world music and beyond. The papers feed into the Minor in Music Technology. They are designed to empower students with the tools necessary to create, perform, record and enjoy music on all levels, in the constantly expanding digital environment we experience today.

The development of digital tools for music creation and production includes desktop and laptop computers, as well as tablets, smartphones, and other mobile devices. People now have the opportunity to create their music outside of traditional studio-system production houses. This opportunity comes with a need for corresponding skill-sets in using the technology to create sophisticated and meaningful media products.

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## Why study Music Technology at Otago?

At Otago, we do not make a distinction between one type of music and another in terms of its importance. Every type of music we teach is regarded as equally worthy of study. We mix genres and styles in our music technology studies because we can learn a great deal about one style by studying another.

Otago University's Music Department continues to expand its excellent reputation through the development of its Music Technology programme, offering a Minor in Music Technology. Music Technology can be taken as a minor subject for a Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Science (BSc), Bachelor of Applied Science (BAppSc) or Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) degree.

At the forefront of its kind, this course of study challenges its students through use of the latest computer technology, high-speed network access, and state of the art recording facilities. Already an integral part of the vibrant Dunedin music scene, which includes world class artists and performers from all styles and genres, the Music Technology programme encourages students to hone their musical and technical skills alike.

We offer students the chance to create and record their own music, either as stand alone papers or within a specific area of study. At the higher levels (4th year and above) students of Music Technology undertake research in an area of music that interests them, recording and producing a full length CD of their work.

## Background required

An interest in studying today's music technology. No musical experience required.

## Career opportunities

- Cultural agencies (government and NGOs)
- Recording industry
- Education (all levels)
- Community education and development
- Computer Industry (software/hardware development)
- Communications industries
- Creative industries (including composition and performance)
- Cultural research projects
- Applied research projects

Many of our graduates have gone on to successful careers in the music industry. Sometimes the type of employment our graduates find is seemingly unrelated to music. However, music requires, and teaches, so many intellectual and life skills, skills which can be utilised in a variety of ways. These are the sorts of skills that are highly valued by employers:

- Communication skills
- Oral and written skills
- Creative thinking and problem-solving skills
- Ability to cooperate with others (teamwork)
- Skills which build personal confidence

## PROFILE

### Rona Wignall (Arcee)

Bachelor of Music (MusB), contemporary voice performance

Rona Wignall has wanted to be a professional musician since she was very young. She taught herself piano which was a great foundation for her hip-hop. "I like my songs to have a message, and with hip-hop I can get a message out in deeper detail, and say it strongly."

Rona decided that if she was going to be a professional musician she needed to have some formal training.

"I decided to do a Bachelor of Music, and was instantly drawn to doing technology.

My thinking was, if I was going to learn an instrument then I'd better learn how to record and edit my creations."

"Otago was the easiest choice because the contemporary music programme is the best in New Zealand."

"The MusB was awesome, I met so many people and learnt so much. The music technology papers were such a good course for the basics and I learnt something new every week.

They helped me figure out where I could go and further research exactly what I wanted to produce.

"Doing hip-hop required more on-screen production in terms of computer generated drums and effects, but learning to record and manipulate vocals was key to the final product.

"Teaching in Music Tech is awesome. Mike, Lou and John really know their stuff and they're so friendly that I never thought I was ever annoying them with my questions.

"Learning to use the lab and having teachers guide me was exactly the beginning I needed. It gave me the grounding to further explore and experiment, which we were encouraged to do. So, after many mistakes, YouTube tutorials and tips from friends, I'm now working with professional producers on my album and can input sounds, ideas and techniques I've learnt."



For questions about  
Music Technology  
[otago.ac.nz/music](http://otago.ac.nz/music)

