

Exciting changes to the Bachelor of Music degrees at the Elder Conservatorium of Music from 2024

From January 2024, most of the undergraduate degrees at the Elder Conservatorium of Music will undergo some small but important changes. These changes will affect the structure of the Music degrees, not the content.

The degrees affected by these changes are: **Bachelor of Music**, **Bachelor of Music (Advanced)** and **Bachelor of Music (Honours)**. The Bachelor of Music Theatre degree is *not* affected by these changes.

From the beginning of 2024, these degrees will offer four majors instead of the current eight majors:

- **Classical Performance**
- **Jazz Performance**
- **Creative Practice**
- **Music Education**

What are the changes?

There will only be very minor changes within the Classical Performance, Jazz Performance and Music Education majors but you may ask... "so what's happened to Sonic Arts, Popular Music and Music Composition"? Nothing! They're still there in spirit and content - just not in name.

We are very pleased to announce that the new **Creative Practice** major will replace the current Sonic Arts, Music Composition and Popular Music majors. It's important to note that none of the courses in these areas have changed – just the name of the major.

The introduction of the Creative Practice major is a reflection of the essential realities of the music profession in the 21st century – especially within the 'creative' areas. Whether you are writing a song, composing a symphony or a film score, creating a soundscape, or composing music for a computer game, the skills you will need to forge a career as a 'music creative' are more diverse than they have ever been, and cover most areas of popular music and music technology/sonic arts, as well as traditional compositional practices. Current and past students have been discussing this broadening of the creative area with us over the last few years, and the Conservatorium believes this change will help prepare our students for a productive life as a creative musician.

The Creative Practice major will also enable students to enrol in other courses that were previously unavailable to them. Following a series of 'foundational' courses (popular music, sonic arts or music composition) in 1st year of your degree, our new Creative Practice major will enable you to choose courses from all of those areas - popular music, music technology and traditional compositional practices – in 2nd and 3rd years of your degree.

So, this increased flexibility means that you can still specialise in popular music, music technology/sonic arts or music composition if you wish, or you can aim for a more diverse set of experiences by undertaking courses from all of those areas. From 2024, you will be able to either *specialise* or *diversify* from within the broader area of 'creative practice'.

New 1st year careers course

Another of our exciting changes is the introduction of a new 1st year course that helps new students successfully navigate their way through their Music degree and develop a solid understanding of career pathways for your life in the music profession. The new course is called '[Life in Music](#)' and is a required course for all Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music (Advanced) students in Semester 1 of 1st year.

From 2024, **Musicology** is no longer offered as a major within the Bachelor of Music or Bachelor of Music (Advanced) degrees. Musicology will only be offered at Honours and postgraduate levels.

Honours

From 2024, the **Bachelor of Music (Honours)** degree will offer five majors as follows:

- Classical Performance (Includes Orchestral Conducting and Choral Conducting - for suitably qualified and skilled students)
- Jazz Performance
- Creative Practice
- Music Education
- Musicology

More information

If you have any questions about the changes or would like advice on which option you should choose please contact the Head of the Major you are interested in

- **Classical Performance** - Dr. Elizabeth Layton elizabeth.layton@adelaide.edu.au
- **Jazz Performance** - Mark Ferguson mark.ferguson@adelaide.edu.au
- **Creative Practice** - Associate Professor Luke Harrald luke.harrald@adelaide.edu.au
- **Music Education** - Dr. Emily Dollman emily.dollman@adelaide.edu.au

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