

Music skills (Durham)

- Experiment with new approaches to teaching harmony and counterpoint as part of Durham UG curriculum
- Competence in H & C seen as foundational skill – equips students for advanced analytical work and develops a more sophisticated sense of stylistic awareness
- Also of use to performers and composers

Durham courses

- ‘Musical Techniques’ (first year): study of strict counterpoint; chorale harmonisation; introduction to figured bass
- ‘Advanced Musical Techniques’ (second year): introduction to eighteenth-century harmonic counterpoint; invertible counterpoint and canon; composition of short keyboard and vocal works employing contrapuntal textures (e.g. Inventions); introduction to chromatic harmony; harmonic analysis of music by range of nineteenth-century composers, including Schubert, Mendelssohn, Liszt and Wagner.

Outcomes

- Strengthening of provision for teaching technical subjects of this nature within Durham curriculum
- Sense of a strong demand from students for these courses (33 students taking optional second-year course): hope to develop third-year courses in more advanced stylistic composition and fugue
- Course materials being developed into textbook to be submitted to Routledge