



## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Leeds Arts University launches recruitment for innovative popular music degree

A ground-breaking degree course in Leeds is aiming to produce a new stream of popular music artists.

Leeds Arts University is launching a Popular Music Performance undergraduate course next year, with an eye firmly set on equipping musicians with the skills needed for a successful career in the industry.

Applications are now open for the course, which will offer the unique opportunity of studying on a campus entirely dedicated to creative arts, allowing collaboration with fellow students who are photographers, fine artists, fashion designers, animators and filmmakers.

“The collaborative, creative opportunity that we offer our music students is what sets us apart,” said Dr Tom Attah, Course Leader and himself a practising musician.

“We have a 171-year history of artistic excellence, and we are now extending that to Popular Music Performance by attracting the country’s best, most imaginative, energetic and compelling popular musicians.

“Our students will build their creative networks and generate music which is not only innovative and imaginative, but also spectacular.”

Many of the UK’s most successful artists, from John Lennon and David Bowie to PJ Harvey, MIA and Florence Welch all attended art school while honing their skills as musicians.

Leeds Arts University is currently recruiting musicians in five areas: vocals, bass, drums, piano/keyboards and guitar. The course will focus on performance, production, composition and collaboration, with students taking part in weekly ensemble performances to further develop their composition and arranging skills.

Based in new state-of-the-art facilities on Blenheim Walk in Leeds city centre, the students will also be given expert vocal and instrument tuition while mastering contracts, rights and networking to fully prepare them for a career in the industry.

“On this innovative new course, we see no boundaries between performance, production and composition,” said Dr Attah, who writes original blues songs and has performed at venues across the globe, including Glastonbury Festival.

“Our approach is developmental and informative, and dedicated to enhancing the artistic vision of specialist music students as working, practical musicians. The course is about developing complete, creative and versatile musicians, ready to build and sustain a career in the contemporary music industry.”

Leeds Arts University has been formally recognised as the new title for Leeds College of Art, having been granted full university status by the Privy Council. Leeds Arts University is now the only specialist arts university in the North of England.

For further details, or to apply for the BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance course, visit <http://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/> or contact Leeds Arts University on 0113 202 8000.

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**Picture caption:** Dr Tom Attah (second from right) working with Leeds Arts University students.

For further images, information or interview opportunities, contact Ian Rosser, PR and Communications Officer, at [ian.rosser@leeds-art.ac.uk](mailto:ian.rosser@leeds-art.ac.uk) or on 0790 5055 163/ 0113 202 8044.

## **Notes to editors:**

The BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance course will begin in September 2018. It will be based in a £22m extension currently being built onto the University’s Blenheim Walk campus.

Facilities will include:

- Dedicated 24-track analogue/digital recording studio with ProTools integration and motorised Solid State Logic AWS924 desk
- Fully-integrated studio live/ensemble rooms
- Specially-designed auditorium with full live PA, lighting rig and video integration
- Sound-proofed instrumental teaching rooms
- State-of-the-art specialist Mac suite
- Backline, microphones and effects processors

## **Leeds Arts University**

Founded in 1846 as the Leeds Government School of Art and Design, Leeds Arts University has contributed significantly to the development of art education in Britain and across the world. In 2016 the University was granted Taught Degree Awarding Powers, and in 2017 was awarded full university status.

Leeds Arts University has an impressive history of notable past students, including Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth who were students in 1919 and 1920. In later years Damien

Hirst, Marcus Harvey, Eric Bainbridge, Clio Barnard and Georgina Starr all studied at the University, known then as the Jacob Kramer College. The University's recent graduates continue to win prestigious international awards year on year and enjoy successful careers in the creative industries.

Leeds Arts University has been recognised for its industry-standard facilities at the Whatuni awards (winners in 2014 and 2016, runner up 2017), and is currently the highest ranked arts university in the UK and the highest ranked university in Yorkshire for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey 2017.

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