

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Singing Skills for the Actor 1

Unit code: DG4W 34

Unit purpose: The purpose of this Unit is to offer candidates a basic understanding of the skills required to demonstrate basic singing technique in the performance of songs.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

1. Explore basic singing techniques.
2. Apply basic singing techniques to the rehearsal of contrasting songs.
3. Apply basic singing techniques to the presentation of contrasting songs.

Credit value: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access will be at the discretion of the centre and the following recommendations are for guidance only.

Where a candidate has achieved the course entry criteria for HNC/D Acting and Performance, they will have shown sufficient knowledge and skills for access to this unit. For this unit, no previous singing experience is necessary.

Core skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards core skills in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components.

Context for delivery: This unit is included in the optional framework of HNC/D Acting and Performance. If this Unit is delivered as part of a group award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the group award to which it contributes.

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: This unit could be assessed by three instruments of assessment, which require candidates to produce evidence of the understanding of basic singing technique.

For Outcome 1, a practical exercise will allow candidates to explore and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the technical and physiological requirements for singing.

For Outcome 2, a practical exercise will allow candidates to prepare 2 contrasting songs, demonstrating basic singing techniques and creative interpretation.

For outcome 3, a practical exercise will allow candidates to perform 2 contrasting songs in a confident manner. The candidate should also demonstrate the ability to analysis the performances, identifying strengths and weaknesses.

Please note, candidates must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified for each Outcome, combination of Outcomes or for the Unit as a whole in order to pass the unit.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and evidence requirements are mandatory.

(If you think holistic assessment is the best assessment strategy for the Unit and you wish to state *Knowledge and/or Skills* and *Evidence requirements* for the Unit as a whole, please add the following statement here: 'Please refer to *Knowledge and/or skills for the Unit* and *Evidence requirements for the Unit* after the Outcomes.')

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Explore basic singing techniques.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ posture
- ◆ breathing
- ◆ resonators
- ◆ intonation
- ◆ phrasing
- ◆ dynamics
- ◆ diction
- ◆ interpretation

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence that demonstrates their understanding of the technical and physiological requirements of basic singing technique. Evidence should take the form of a series of singing exercises.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment for this outcome should be undertaken and passed prior to the candidate progressing to Outcome 2.

The assessment instrument used should be a Practical Exercise. (Observation checklists should be used to assess the candidate's learning.)

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Singing Skills for the Actor 1

Outcome 2

Apply basic singing techniques to the rehearsal of contrasting songs.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ appropriate posture
- ◆ demonstration of correct breathing
- ◆ appropriate use of resonators
- ◆ accurate intonation
- ◆ developed sense of phrasing
- ◆ appropriate dynamics
- ◆ clarity of diction
- ◆ appropriate interpretation

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate all aspects of their knowledge and / or skills in this outcome by showing that they have the ability to apply knowledge of basic singing techniques to the rehearsal of 2 contrasting songs.

The rehearsed songs should be solos.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment for this outcome should be undertaken and passed prior to the candidate progressing to Outcome 3.

Assessment Instrument should be Practical Exercise (observation checklists should be used to assess the candidate's learning.)

Outcome 3

Apply basic singing techniques to the presentation of contrasting songs.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ correct application of all aspects of basic singing techniques
- ◆ appropriate interpretation of chosen material
- ◆ demonstration of acting skills through the medium of song
- ◆ ability to identify and analyse strengths and weaknesses

Evidence requirements

Candidates are required to present two contrasting solo songs. Each song should last for duration of 2-4 minutes.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Singing Skills for the Actor 1

The songs should be delivered in a performance situation. The performance should be video taped as supporting evidence.

A short written report (500 words) should be produced to assess the candidate's ability to identify and analyse strengths and weaknesses.

Assessment Guidelines:

Assessment Instruments should be Practical Exercise and Restricted Response (observation checklists should be used to assess the candidate's learning.)

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DG4W 34
Unit title:	Singing Skills for the Actor 1
Superclass category:	LH
Date of publication:	1 July 2004
Version:	01
Source:	SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Singing Skills for the Actor 1

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This unit is primarily designed as an optional unit for acting and performance candidates.

Technical competence is necessary but should be balanced with the demonstration of acting skills through the medium of song.

The unit is not designed for any specific musical style and candidates should be allowed to explore a range of songs to help them establish the strengths, weaknesses and range of their voice.

Examples: Character Songs; Musical Theatre; Popular; Classical; Folk; Blues; Rock; Country

Whilst the unit is designed to stand-alone for actors with singing ability, it could allow integration with elements of the core voice units.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

It is recommended that singing exercises provide the basis for each lesson as warm-up and to provide evidence of the candidate's individual practice outwith the rehearsal room.

A formative written assessment could also be applied to determine the candidate's knowledge of the physiological requirements of basic singing technique.

It is also recommended that songs be performed either to peers or in a performance situation if appropriate.

Video should be used where possible to provide opportunities for candidates to view performance, for example; throughout the rehearsal process and prior to completing critical analysis.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Singing Skills for the Actor 1

Open learning

The Outcomes in this unit rely on developing skills through interaction with a lecturer and/or fellow candidates, and so the opportunities for distance learning are very limited. Centres may, however, find it possible to develop solutions, provided all unit and moderation requirements are met in full. Technological advances may make the possibility of such creative solutions more widespread in the future.

Because of the intensive nature of the training and the rehearsal requirements for this unit when taken as part of a course, part-time provision would be most unusual and difficult to achieve.

For information on normal open learning arrangements, please refer to the SQA guide *Assessment and Quality Assurance and Distance Learning (SQA 2000)*.

Special needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering special alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements (SQA, 2001)*.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Singing Skills for the Actor 1

This unit is designed to allow you to develop basic singing skills as an actor.

The unit will introduce you to basic singing techniques and give you an insight into how to interpret songs. You should concentrate on systematically working your way through the exercises, understanding the process and performing the final contrasting songs. Whilst technique is important, this should be balanced with an ability to demonstrate your acting skills through the medium of song.

To begin with, you will explore new singing techniques and apply these to a series of singing exercises. You will then be given the opportunity to rehearse and perform two contrasting songs, which suit your vocal ability and vocal range. This provides the basis of the assessment for the last outcome, which will involve you in a performance and evaluation of these songs as the final summative assessment for this unit.

Attendance at all classes is essential due to the ongoing assessment by observational checklist used by your assessor.

In order to complete this Unit successfully, you will be required to achieve a satisfactory level of performance in all three outcomes.

It is advised that singing exercises be practiced on a regular basis to allow maximum development of your voice.