

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Keyboard Skills for Music Production

Unit code: DJ28 33

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop and implement the use of keyboard skills as a creative tool for music production. Candidates will develop basic musicianship and knowledge of the keyboard instrument. The unit is primarily intended for candidates who will use the keyboard as a creative tool within the context of music production. The term ‘production’ encompasses composition, song writing, arranging, audio engineering and studio production.

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

1. Use the keyboard effectively as a tool for music production.
2. Demonstrate understanding of basic harmonic principles.

Credit points and level: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 6 (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*)

**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: Although not essential, it would be beneficial for candidates to have some understanding of the keyboard, this could be evidenced by the use of the keyboard as a solo or group instrument in a Standard Grade, Intermediate 1 or 2 qualification or equivalent. Candidates should also have good communication skills. These may be demonstrated by the achievement of core skill Communication at Higher level or by possession of Higher English and Communication or a suitable NQ Communication Unit (SCQF level 5/6).

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.

General information for centres (cont)

Context for delivery: This is an optional Unit included in the frameworks for HNC/D Music Group Awards. It is recommended that it is taught and assessed within the context of the particular group award to which it contributes. Candidates undertaking the group award may find opportunities to integrate assessments with:

HN Unit	Unit Title
	Music: Live Performance 1
	Practical Musicianship
	Stagecraft for Musicians

Assessment: A single holistic instrument of assessment could be used to assess this unit. This would require the candidate to complete an assessment in realising harmony from chord symbols at the keyboard using appropriate instrumental techniques.

Alternatively each outcome could be assessed separately. Assessment should be carried out under controlled conditions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Keyboard Skills for Music Production

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

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

Use the keyboard effectively as a tool for music production.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Basic hand co-ordination
- ◆ Keyboard technique

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can demonstrate effective keyboard technique and basic hand coordination.

The performance should be recorded on a high quality format and kept as evidence for external moderation.

Assessment should be conducted under controlled conditions and lecturer observation should ensure only 'real time' input is used if using MIDI sequencing equipment.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome can be combined with Outcome 2 as part of a single holistic assessment for the Unit, details of which are given under Outcome 2 below.

Should there be ambiguity regarding a candidate's response, oral questioning may be used to eliminate any doubt as to the candidate's understanding. The lecturer should note questions and responses.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Keyboard Skills for Music Production

Outcome 2

Demonstrate understanding of basic harmonic principles

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Major chords
- ◆ Minor chords
- ◆ 7th chords
- ◆ Slash chords
- ◆ Sus. chords
- ◆ Added chords

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their skills and/or knowledge by showing that they can:

- ◆ realise and perform harmony from chord symbols using a keyboard
- ◆ demonstrate the use of effective keyboard technique in the performance of harmonic material.

The assessment should be recorded on a high quality format and kept as evidence for external moderation.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome can be combined with Outcome 1 as part of a single holistic assessment of the Unit. In this assessment candidates will be required to realise chords from a given score, performance plan or lead sheet. It is not expected that candidates memorise or realise chord symbols from the knowledge of music theory or understanding of notation. Candidates will have the opportunity to access literature and charts with chords and harmony notes in their work and assessment.

Should there be ambiguity regarding a candidate's response, oral questioning may be used to eliminate any doubt as to the candidate's understanding. The lecturer should note questions and responses.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DJ28 33
Unit title:	Keyboard Skills for Music Production
Superclass category:	LH
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Keyboard Skills for Music Production

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

The Unit is primarily intended to prepare candidates to use the keyboard as a tool when acting as composer/songwriter/arranger, producer, and engineer or studio technician in order to realise, explore and manipulate harmony. The understanding and realisation of chords often forms the central exploration of harmony for composers, songwriters and arrangers. The Unit offers candidates the opportunity to develop skills in using the keyboard to express and explore harmony. These skills are also relevant to inputting musical information into MIDI sequencing and/or multi track recording equipment.

Although the Unit is expressed in generic terms, it should be related to a context which is familiar to candidates. If necessary the terminology used in the Unit can be adapted to suit the most relevant industry workplace, e.g. Recording Studio, Midi Workstation.

Outcome 1 looks at the overall skills areas concerned with using the keyboard effectively as a tool for music production - basic hand co-ordination and keyboard technique.

Outcome 2 focuses on the realisation of chord symbols and the candidate's ability to perform given chords at the keyboard from chord symbols. It is not expected, for this Unit, that candidates memorise or realise chord symbols from the knowledge of music theory or understanding of notation. Candidates will have the opportunity to access literature and charts with chords and harmony notes in their work and assessment. This would be provided in exemplar and support materials.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This unit is an optional element of the HNC/D Music group award. While all the units in the group award can be assessed individually it is anticipated that integration will occur between the outcomes of this Unit and with outcomes from the Units Stagecraft, Music: Live Performance Skills 1 and Practical Musicianship 1.

It is also anticipated that some of the delivery of this unit will be carried out on a one to one basis or with small groups of similar abilities. While all candidates need to explore a range of keyboard technique for their study, they will also require to develop individual skills and to target specific weaknesses.

Outcome 1 relates to using the keyboard as an effective tool for music production.

Outcome 2 demands that candidates show an understanding of basic harmonic principles.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Keyboard Skills for Music Production

Assessment could be by a single holistic assessment. This would require the candidate to complete an assessment in realising harmony from chord symbols at the keyboard using appropriate instrumental techniques. Alternatively each outcome could be assessed separately. Assessment should be carried out under controlled conditions.

Open learning

This unit could be delivered by open learning with suitable support material. The candidate would have to appear in person for assessment purposes.

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

Candidates with additional support needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Additional Support Needs* (BA 2399, SQA, due 2004).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Keyboard Skills for Music Production

The Unit is intended to prepare you to use the keyboard as a tool when acting as composer/songwriter/arranger, producer, and engineer or studio technician in order to realise, explore and manipulate harmony. You will develop basic musicianship and knowledge of the keyboard instrument. The unit is primarily intended to prepare you to use the keyboard as a creative tool within the context of music production. The term 'production' encompasses composition, songwriting, arranging, audio engineering and studio production.

In industry, the understanding and realisation of chords often forms the central exploration of harmony for composers, songwriters and arrangers. The Unit offers you the opportunity to develop skills in using the keyboard to express and explore harmony. These skills are also relevant to inputting musical information into MIDI sequencing and/or multi track recording equipment.

It is not expected for this Unit that you will memorise, or realise chord symbols from the knowledge of music theory or understanding of notation. You will have the opportunity to access literature and charts with chords and harmony notes in their work and assessment. This will be provided in exemplar and support materials.

By the end of the Unit you should be able to:

1. Use the keyboard effectively as a tool for music production.
2. Demonstrate understanding of basic harmonic principles

Assessment could be by a single holistic assessment. This would require you to complete an assessment in realising harmony from chord symbols at the keyboard using appropriate instrumental techniques. Alternatively each outcome could be assessed separately. Assessment will be carried out under controlled conditions.