

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Music: Instrumental Accompaniment

Unit code: DJ31 34

Unit purpose: This unit is designed to enable candidates to understand and demonstrate the skills of instrumental accompaniment. It prepares them for this through studying, rehearsing and performing accompaniment repertoire with a soloist. This Unit is suitable for candidates who enjoy working closely with others and who wish to develop effective working relationships as an accompanist with soloists.

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

1. Demonstrate understanding of effective accompaniment skills.
2. Demonstrate the ability to follow marks of musical expression.
3. Perform a range of repertoire as an accompanist.

Credit points and level: 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: It is recommended that candidates undertaking this unit can demonstrate the ability to perform from staff notation on an accompanying instrument (for example, keyboard, piano, organ, harp, clarsach, guitar or accordion). This may be demonstrated by the achievement of Higher Performing Extension and/or Higher Accompanying or equivalent (SCQF level 6). It may also be advisable for candidates to undertake an interview and audition to ensure they have the appropriate starting skills for this unit. It would be beneficial for candidates to have some accompanying experience, but it is not essential.

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
	Music First Study 1: Instrument
	Practical Musicianship

Assessment: The unit could be assessed through submitting video and/or audio recordings (or observation records) of the candidate's performances. It could also involve maintaining a reflective diary or logbook to record performance planning, preparation and evaluation, and rehearsal notes. Discussions with the candidate, or written reports, should also form part of the assessment for this unit to ensure that there is no ambiguity.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Music: Instrumental Accompaniment

Unit code: DJ31 34

Outcome 1

Demonstrate understanding of effective accompaniment skills

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Follow a soloist
- ◆ Sensitively support a soloist
- ◆ Develop a constructive working relationship with soloists
- ◆ Evaluation of accompaniment effectiveness

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence, recorded on a high quality format, to demonstrate their skills and/or knowledge by showing that they can, for each repertoire item performed as an accompanist:

- ◆ effectively follow a soloist in performance (starting, stopping, changing speeds, togetherness, etc.)
- ◆ sensitively support a soloist in performance (volume, balance etc.)
- ◆ co-operate with a soloist through discussion, problem-solving and decision making
- ◆ evaluate the effectiveness of the accompaniment performance

The performance should be recorded on a high quality format and a logbook of rehearsal discussions and decisions kept as evidence for external moderation. The logbook may also contain evaluations of the effectiveness of the accompaniments performed, or a separate report may be provided (written or oral).

Assessment guidelines

Video and/or audio recordings may be used as evidence for parts of outcomes 2 and 3. The logbook may be expanded to collect evidence for Outcomes 2 and 3.

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.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate the ability to follow marks of musical expression

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Understand marks of musical expression
- ◆ Practical application of marks of musical expression

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Music: Instrumental Accompaniment

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can, for each repertoire item performed as an accompanist:

- ◆ Demonstrate understanding of the meaning of marks of expression in the music performed
- ◆ Interpret marks of musical expression practically in performance

The performance should be recorded on a high quality format and a logbook of the meanings of marks of musical expression encountered in each repertoire accompaniment kept as evidence for external moderation.

Assessment guidelines

Video and/or audio recordings may be used as evidence for parts of outcomes 1 and 3. The logbook may be expanded to collect evidence for Outcomes 1 and 3.

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.

Outcome 3

Perform a range of repertoire as an accompanist

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Effective rehearsal techniques
- ◆ Plan and perform a range of repertoire styles as an accompanist
- ◆ Demonstrate adequate instrumental technique and musicianship in a variety of keys

Evidence requirements

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

- ◆ perform, as an accompanist, a programme of at least four pieces in contrasting styles
- ◆ perform, as an accompanist, in at least three different keys from staff notation
- ◆ provide a fluent accompaniment, demonstrating effective musicianship skills
- ◆ plan and evaluate rehearsals effectively

Performance must be recorded on a high quality format and kept as evidence for external moderation. A copy of the music being performed should be available and must include the solo line and accompaniment in staff notation. Chord symbols or TAB notated accompaniment is not acceptable.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Music: Instrumental Accompaniment

Assessment guidelines

Video and/or audio recordings may be used as evidence for parts of Outcomes 1 and 2.

A logbook may also be used to record evidence for this outcome or parts of Outcomes 1 and 2.

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:	DJ31 34
Unit title:	Music: Instrumental Accompaniment
Superclass category:	LH
Date of publication:	September 2004
Version:	01
Source:	SQA

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2004

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of Higher National qualifications.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre for further details, telephone 0845 279 1000.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Music: Instrumental Accompaniment

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 emphasises the processes and practices involved in preparing for performances, as an accompanist, rather than the skills that a last minute 'stand-in' accompanist may require, such as transposition and sight-reading. It is intended for those candidates who enjoy working closely with others, and who wish to develop effective working relationships as an accompanist with soloists.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Candidates, as accompanists, will require soloists to work with, so it may be possible to work with appropriate first or second study instrumental HN candidates. Rehearsal for accompanist candidates should take place regularly, either working on the accompaniment repertoire alone, and/or working with soloists. It is necessary to build a rapport between soloist and accompanist, so rehearsals need to involve the dialogue and discussions that lay the foundations of a good working relationship. Candidates should be encouraged to listen carefully to soloists and become aware of visual cues to aid the effectiveness of the ensemble.

The repertoire to be rehearsed, studied and performed needs to demonstrate a variety of styles. Staff notation is required for this unit. Chord symbols or TAB notated accompaniment is not acceptable.

Assessment may be ongoing, whereby video and/or audio recordings and logbooks can be completed and maintained, as each repertoire item is prepared and ready for performing. Alternatively, the whole programme may be performed towards the end of the unit. The video and/or audio recordings can be used to provide evidence for parts of each outcome. Similarly, the logbook or diary may also be created in such a way as to collect all other evidence required for the outcomes. Candidates may prefer to work on one repertoire item at a time, and maintain a separate logbook for each piece being worked on.

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).

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Music: Instrumental Accompaniment

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 (cont)

Unit title: Music: Instrumental Accompaniment

This unit is designed to enable you to understand and demonstrate the skills of instrumental accompaniment. It prepares you for this through studying, rehearsing and performing accompaniment repertoire with a soloist.

This unit emphasises the processes and practices involved in preparing for performances, as an accompanist, rather than the skills that a last minute 'stand-in' accompanist may require, such as transposition and sight-reading. It is intended for those candidates who enjoy working closely with others, and who wish to develop effective working relationships as an accompanist with soloists.

It is recommended that you can demonstrate the ability to perform from staff notation on an accompanying instrument for example, keyboard, piano, organ, harp, clarsach, guitar and accordion prior to entry. Higher Music Performing Extension and/or Higher Accompanying would satisfy this requirement. It would be beneficial for you to have some accompanying experience, but it is not essential.

You, as an accompanist, will require soloists to work with, so it may be possible to work with appropriate first or second study instrumental HN candidates. Rehearsal should take place regularly, either working on the accompaniment repertoire alone, and/or working with soloists. It is necessary to build a rapport between soloist and accompanist, so rehearsals need to involve the dialogue and discussions that lay the foundations of a good working relationship. You are encouraged to listen carefully to soloists and become aware of visual cues to aid the effectiveness of the ensemble.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of effective accompaniment skills
2. Demonstrate the ability to follow marks of musical expression
3. Perform a range of repertoire as an accompanist