

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Stagecraft for Musicians

Unit code DJ39 34

Unit purpose: This unit is designed to give candidates the opportunity to explore, analyse, develop and display skills in stagecraft. These would include interaction with audience and fellow performers, technical skills related to performance and the creation and development of an individual stage persona. The unit is aimed at those who intend to develop their live performance skills.

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

1. Communicate with audience and relevant personnel.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of practical and technical aspects of a range of performance spaces.
3. Display performance characteristics appropriate to individual stage persona.

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 would be beneficial if candidates had a level of ability and some experience of performance as may be evidenced by Higher Music or achievement of a relevant NC qualification. 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.

Context for delivery: This is an optional unit in the framework for HNC/D Music group award. 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.

Assessment: This Unit lends itself to one holistic assessment. A portfolio of evidence, gathered over 2 performances, should be submitted.

General information for centres (cont)

For candidates undertaking the group award, the assessment of this unit can be combined with Music: Live Performance 1, Practical Musicianship and Music First Study 1: Instrument.

Higher National Unit Specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Stagecraft for Musicians

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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

Communicate with audience and relevant personnel

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Effective and appropriate communication with audiences, fellow performers and technical staff

Evidence requirements

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

- ◆ communicate effectively and appropriately with audience
- ◆ communicate effectively and appropriately with fellow performers
- ◆ communicate effectively and appropriately with technical staff

Evidence of effective communication, including non-verbal communication, with above personnel must be demonstrated over the course of two performance situations.

Observation checklists should be used to record evidence.

Candidates must also submit appropriate written technical documentation: set lists, lighting plan, sound plan, stage set-up, publicity material etc.

Assessment guidelines:

It is anticipated that assessment for all three outcomes for this unit will be integrated, resulting in the submission of a portfolio consisting of all relevant evidence. Details of a single holistic assessment for Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 are given under Outcome 3.

Higher National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Stagecraft for Musicians

Where a candidate is undertaking the group award, there will be opportunities to integrate assessment with the units Music: Live performance 1, Practical Musicianship and Music First Study 1: Instrument.

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 an understanding of practical and technical aspects of a range of performance spaces

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Entry/exit strategies
- ◆ Health and Safety issues
- ◆ Venue-specific technical issues
- ◆ On-stage conduct

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence, in the form of a report, to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can conduct themselves appropriately in at least two performance spaces showing an understanding of:

- ◆ get-ins and get-outs
- ◆ physical and technical constraints and features of performance space/venue
- ◆ technical features, for example cable runs, stage rake; light/sound issues
- ◆ health and Safety issues

Candidates must show an understanding of specific Health and Safety issues relating to each performance space.

Candidates must also undertake a self-evaluation exercise to evaluate technical and practical aspects of the performance.

Candidates should produce a report on at least two separate performances that cover all aspects as detailed above.

Assessment Guidelines

It is anticipated that assessment for all three outcomes for this unit will be integrated, resulting in the submission of a portfolio consisting of all relevant evidence. Details of a single holistic assessment for Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 are given under Outcome 3.

Higher National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Stagecraft for Musicians

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

Display performance characteristics appropriate to individual stage persona

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Awareness of performance protocols appropriate to genre/persona
- ◆ Understanding of the concept of 'image' in relation to stage performance
- ◆ Development of an individual stage persona and image
- ◆ Ability to project desired stage persona to audience
- ◆ Critical evaluation of own performance

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ perform, on at least two occasions, using a developed 'stage persona'. Performances must show both an awareness of the concept of image and stage persona, and the ability to effectively project the developed persona to an audience.
- ◆ self-evaluate, in written or oral form, each performance. The self-evaluation must demonstrate an awareness of all of the above knowledge and/or skills.
- ◆ produce a report on the concept of 'image' in relation to two other performers

Assessment for this outcome will take the form of: observation of the candidate in at least two separate performance situations; a report on the concept of 'image' in relation to two other performers; self-evaluations of at least two performances in relation to the success or failure of the developed stage persona.

Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 can be assessed individually or holistically. A holistic assessment requires the candidate to produce a portfolio containing a report, documentation, self-evaluations etc. as required under the knowledge and /or skills for each Outcome.

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

Higher National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Stagecraft for Musicians

Assessment Guidelines

It is anticipated that assessment for all three outcomes for this unit will be integrated, resulting in the submission of a portfolio consisting of all relevant evidence.

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

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Higher National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Stagecraft for Musicians

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This unit is intended to allow the candidate to explore the concept of ‘image’ as related to live music performance. Candidates will develop an individual live stage persona and use it in performance. They will also gain an understanding of the physical and technical issues of various venues, and operate within correct Health and Safety constraints. The unit is intended to form part of the HNC/D Music group award, and in that context, there are several opportunities for integration and cross-assessment with other units, such as Music: Live Performance 1 and Music First study 1: Instrument. The unit could also be undertaken individually, especially for musicians who may already be undertaking live performance as part of their normal work.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

There are several opportunities for integration and cross-assessment with other units, such as Music: Live Performance 1 and Music First study 1: Instrument. It may be beneficial to employ inhibition training, movement classes and speech classes as part of the delivery for this unit. Attention must be paid at all times to the genre-specific nature of stagecraft: performance criteria differ greatly between genres and styles of music, and credit must be given for the employment of appropriate stylistic ‘codes’ in performance. Candidates should be able to justify their choice of performance codes in terms of their chosen persona with reference to existing genres/styles. The self-evaluation is an important aspect of this unit - it is essential that candidates reflect on the success or otherwise of their developed persona.

It should be noted that successful achievement of this unit should depend on the process of development, execution and evaluation of the performance persona, and should not be judged on the perceived success or failure of the performance *per se*. Candidates should be credited with performing ‘to the best of their ability’ in adhering to the requirements of this unit.

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by open learning. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence. Arrangements would have to be made to ensure that the assessment(s) are delivered in an appropriate manner.

There is a vast public database of live performances available which enhances opportunities for open learning. Technical details relating to venues can be delivered generically and assessed by report. Final performances may be recorded on video for assessment evidence.

For further information and advice please refer to *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning (SQA, February 2001 – publication code A1030)*.

Higher National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Stagecraft for Musicians

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: Stagecraft for Musicians

This unit is intended to allow you to explore the concept of 'image' as related to live music performance. You will study various examples of image to assist you in creating and developing your own individual vocabulary for stage performance. You will develop an individual live stage persona and use it in performance. You will also gain an understanding of the physical and technical issues of various venues, and operate within Health and Safety constraints correctly.

The unit is an optional part of the HNC/D Music group award, and in that context, there are several opportunities for integration and cross-assessment with other units, such as Music: Live Performance 1 and Music First study 1: Instrument.

On completion of this unit you should be able to:

1. Communicate with audience and relevant personnel.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of practical and technical aspects of a range of performance spaces.
3. Display performance characteristics appropriate to individual stage persona.