

## Higher National Unit Specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Songwriting 2

**Unit code:** DR0M 35

**Unit purpose:** This Unit is designed to give the candidate an understanding of a range of songwriting techniques. It will extend the experience of candidates who have completed Songwriting 1 (DJ35 34) by providing opportunities to explore advanced elements of songwriting. This will be achieved through listening to and analysing existing songs. Candidates should then undertake the process of songwriting based on the conventions of a chosen genre.

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

- 1 Analyse songs in a variety of genres.
- 2 Create an original song and identify appropriate methods of copyright control.

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

*\*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:** Candidates should have successfully completed Songwriting 1 (DJ35 34). Candidates should also have some notational skills including following and writing chord charts and/or a simple notational score in the case of a melody or a solo passage. Candidates should 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).

Access to this Unit will be at the discretion of the centre.

**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:** 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 should be assessed using at least two instruments of assessment.

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For Outcome 1:

- ◆ a written or oral commentary

For Outcome 2:

- ◆ produce an original song with appropriate notation
- ◆ produce a written or oral submission in which the candidate contextualises the original song in terms of genre
- ◆ produce written or oral evidence indicating an understanding of appropriate methods of copyright control

To achieve this Unit the candidate is required to:

- ◆ Demonstrate an understanding of songwriting — advanced harmonic principles, lyric writing melodic construction
- ◆ Write a song reflecting a range of advanced principles in any chosen genre
- ◆ Identify an appropriate method of copyright control

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Songwriting 2

**Unit code:** DR0M 35

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**

Analyse songs in a variety of genres

#### **Knowledge and/or skills**

- ◆ Awareness of a range of styles
- ◆ Recognise key features of songs

#### **Evidence requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can analyse songs in a variety of genres recognising key features such as:

- ◆ harmonic characteristics eg extensions, sus, add, slash chords and substitutions
- ◆ lyrical devices eg phrasing, rhyme, and concepts of narrative
- ◆ elements of arrangement and song structure

Candidates will analyse three songs each from a different genre. They are required to present, in either written or oral form, a commentary covering each of the knowledge and/or skills above.

#### **Assessment guidelines**

Candidates may choose to examine each of the songs by means of aural analysis and/or score reading skills. This will be a stand-alone assessment which should occur towards the end of the period of study to allow the candidate to refine their musical analysis skills.

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 (cont)**

**Unit title:** Songwriting 2

### **Outcome 2**

Create an original song and identify appropriate methods of copyright control

#### **Knowledge and/or skills**

- ◆ Apply advanced compositional techniques to write a song
- ◆ Contextualise song in terms of genre
- ◆ Appropriate notation
- ◆ Identify an appropriate method of copyright control

#### **Evidence requirements**

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

- ◆ produce an original song with appropriate notation ie lead sheet/score
- ◆ produce a written or oral submission in which the candidate contextualises the original song in terms of genre
- ◆ produce written or oral evidence indicating an understanding of appropriate methods of copyright control

The song must:

- ◆ be appropriately notated and presented in audio format
- ◆ contain at least three structural elements (eg verse, chorus and bridge)
- ◆ contain lyrics
- ◆ be consistent with the conventions a particular song-writing genre

#### **Assessment guidelines**

The candidate should present a completed song and it should contain the required elements of composition and structure at the level defined above. A recording of the song should be submitted with the appropriate notation.

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:** DR0M 35  
**Unit title:** Songwriting 2  
**Superclass category:** LF  
**Date of publication:** August 2005  
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### History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Removal of Word Count and Presentation Length.	27/05/11

**Source:** SQA

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## Higher National Unit specification: support notes

### Unit title: Songwriting 2

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 intended for candidates who have successfully completed Songwriting 1 (DJ35 34).

As in **Songwriting 1** some skill on a musical instrument is desirable but the Unit and delivery of the Unit should take into account candidates who do not play harmonic instruments (vocals and drummers) and any form of disability.

The content of the Unit will reflect advanced compositional techniques including chord extensions, substitution, melody and lyrics. Close attention should also be given to advanced song structure and the elements of non-diatonic chords and melody.

It is suggested that extended chord harmonisation of scales be addressed.

Chord substitution and the application of standard non-diatonic chords eg b7ths, b3rds, diminished 7ths, augmented chords and secondary dominants, must be analysed. Principles of melodic composition and the notation of such should be addressed. Lyrical forms including concepts of phrasing, rhyming, subject matter and matching up to melody and harmony should be contained within the Unit.

It is anticipated that the candidate will maintain a portfolio of work in progress or ‘sketches’ of ideas. The songs should be written throughout the duration of the Unit and presented to the tutor in recorded format. In all cases appropriate notation, chord charts and lyrics should accompany the songs.

### Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is an optional Unit in the HND Music Group Award and is designed to build on the skills achieved in **Songwriting 1**.

The main evidence requirements are:

- ◆ an analysis of song-writing within specific genres
- ◆ a song composition based on a specific genre with an accompanying commentary

The tutor should present a series of structured lessons covering the criteria for the production of evidence both in class and assessment.

The resources at centres delivering the Group Award will vary so it will be up to the institution and individual tutor to decide on a delivery method. The ideal areas for delivery would include digital workstations with the appropriate software, rooms with recording facilities, sound rehearsal rooms etc.

## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)**

**Unit title:** Songwriting 2

### **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.

For information for normal open learning arrangements, please refer to the SQA document *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* (A1030).

### **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 Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on the SQA website [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk).

## General information for candidates

### Unit title: Songwriting 2

This Unit is designed to give you an understanding of a range of songwriting techniques by providing opportunities to explore advanced elements of songwriting. This will be achieved through listening to and analysing existing songs. You will then undertake the process of songwriting based on the conventions of a chosen genre. The Unit has two Outcomes:

- 1 Analyse songs in a variety of genres.
- 2 Create an original song and identify appropriate methods of copyright control.

On completion of this Unit you will be required to show evidence of analysis of songs in a variety of genres as well as compose song in a specific genre with supporting commentary.

The assessments are as follows:

For Outcome 1:

- ◆ a written or oral commentary

For Outcome 2:

- ◆ produce an original song with appropriate notation
- ◆ produce a written or oral submission in which the candidate contextualises the original song in terms of genre
- ◆ produce written or oral evidence indicating an understanding of appropriate methods of copyright control

To pass the Unit you are required to:

- ◆ demonstrate an understanding of advanced harmonic principles, lyric writing melodic construction.
- ◆ write a song reflecting a range of advanced principles in any chosen genre
- ◆ identify an appropriate method of copyright control