



Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Music First Study 2: Instrument

Unit code: F604 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to provide the candidate with knowledge and understanding of their first study instrument and the skills to become a technically proficient musician. On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to perform in a range of appropriate solo and/or group situations, displaying advanced technique and musicality. The Unit is aimed at candidates who wish to develop a high level of proficiency on their first study instrument.

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

- 1 Demonstrate secure appropriate technique.
- 2 Perform music in a range of appropriate solo and/or group situations.
- 3 Critically evaluate performance.

Credit points and level: 3 HN credits at SCQF level 8: (24 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: Access to this Unit will be at the discretion of the centre, however it is recommended that candidates should have a level of generally secure technique on their first study instrument which will allow them to develop skills to the level required by this Unit. Candidates should have completed *Music First Study 1: Instrument* (DJ27 34).

Candidates should have good communication skills. These may be demonstrated by the possession of Core Skill *Communication* at Higher level or Higher English and Communication or a suitable NQ *Communication* Unit (SCQF level 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: 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.

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Assessment: This Unit could be assessed by three or four assessments.

- 1 A set piece chosen by the assessor from a nationally moderated list.
- 2 One or two assessments covering Outcomes 1 and 2 consisting of a performance that demonstrates musicianship and breadth of repertoire.
- 3 A written or oral presentation critically evaluating musical performance.

When assessing individual performances the following criteria should be used as guidance in determining pass/fail.

A performance in which:

- ◆ notes, rhythm and tempo are accurate
- ◆ phrasing, articulation, tonal qualities and dynamics are applied accurately
- ◆ improvisation, where appropriate imaginatively develops melodic and/or rhythmic ideas
- ◆ mood and character are conveyed effectively

All of the above criteria may not apply to every instrument or every performance.

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.

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

Demonstrate secure appropriate technique

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Secure technique on chosen instrument
- ◆ Awareness of a range of styles and stylistic parameters
- ◆ Ability to respond to idiomatic requirements
- ◆ Awareness of composers' intentions

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence, recorded on a high quality format, to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can play one randomly selected piece from a provided list which:

- ◆ demonstrates the stylistic features of the piece
- ◆ is performed in an idiomatically appropriate manner
- ◆ demonstrates secure technique

A list of six contrasting pieces or studies will be provided for each instrument. Candidates will select four pieces from this list and be assessed on one which shall be selected at random by the assessing tutor.

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

Assessment Guidelines

This will be a stand-alone assessment that should occur towards the end of the period of study to allow the candidate to refine their performance through practice and the application of secure technique.

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: Music First Study 2: Instrument

Outcome 2

Perform music in a range of appropriate solo and/or group situations

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Secure technique on chosen instrument
- ◆ Sensitivity to a range of styles
- ◆ Ability to respond to idiomatic requirements
- ◆ Awareness of composers' intentions

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ rehearse and perform a varied programme of music
- ◆ demonstrate the stylistic features of a range of music
- ◆ perform in an idiomatically appropriate manner

Candidates must provide sufficient performance evidence covering a minimum of three styles. Evidence must be recorded on a high quality format and kept for external moderation purposes.

Assessment Guidelines

Assessment of this Outcome will take the form of one or more performances in a solo or group context and can be assessed in conjunction with Outcome 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.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Music First Study 2: Instrument

Outcome 3

Critically evaluate performance

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Self evaluation
- ◆ Musical and stylistic features

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can, under open-book conditions, critically evaluate their performance. Evaluation should be a written or oral presentation. Evidence must be sufficient to reliably address all requirements.

The candidates' performance on their first study instrument must be critically evaluated.

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome can be assessed in conjunction with 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: F604 35
Unit title: Music First Study 2: Instrument
Superclass category: LH
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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
	This Unit F604 35 now replaces DR11 35 <i>Music First Study 2: Instrument</i>	31/3/09

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Music First Study 2: Instrument

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 120 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is intended to be a major step towards mastering all aspects of the selected first study instrument's normal repertoire. To reach the standard required by the assessment pieces in the given time, significant prior experience with the instrument may be required, as will extensive practice and self-study.

It is essential that the candidate is exposed to the full range of styles and techniques normally associated with their instrument. In Outcome 1 candidates will select four pieces from a list of six and be assessed on one of these by random selection. A moderated list of pieces will be used to provide breadth in their repertoire.

Outcomes 2 relates to the execution of a musical performance. The candidate will use their performances to demonstrate depth of musicality and technique. The candidate will be free to select repertoire, which will allow them to demonstrate the required skills and comply with the Evidence Requirements. It is envisaged that tutor support will be vital here to ensure the full breadth and depth of their ability is evidenced.

Outcome 3 requires the candidate to critically evaluate their performance in terms of technique and musicality. Candidate may choose to compare and contrast their own performance with that of the key exponents of the instrument.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit has been developed as a mandatory Unit in the framework of the HND Music Group Award; as such it may contribute to the Graded Unit for that award. While all the Units in the Group Award can be assessed individually it is anticipated that integration will occur at least between Outcomes 2 and 3 which both require performance evidence. Integration may also occur between these Outcomes and with Outcomes from the Units *Music: Live Performance Skills 2* (DR2L 35) and *Songwriting 2* (DR0M 35).

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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It is 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 the full range of repertoire and techniques for their first study instrument, they will also require to develop individual skills and to target specific weaknesses:

- ◆ Outcome 1 relates to selected pieces and it may be useful for groups of candidates playing the same instrument to work on one of the set pieces or technical studies together.
- ◆ Outcome 2 requires candidates to play in appropriate group or solo situations demonstrating musicality through expressive interpretation of material. This may require individual guidance from a tutor to help candidates select a suitable repertoire.
- ◆ Outcome 3 is designed to allow the candidate to reflect upon their performance.

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by open learning with suitable support material. The candidate would have to appear in person for assessment of Outcome 1. A submitted videotape of good quality could evidence Outcomes 1 and 2. Delivering centres will be responsible for ensuring authenticity of candidates' work.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

General information for candidates

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On completion of the Unit you should be able to perform in a range of appropriate solo and/or group situations, displaying correct technique in a range of styles.

This Unit is designed to prepare you for professional engagements in some aspects of your first study instrument as well as providing the progression route to further study.

In addition to tuition you will be required to learn pieces in a wide variety of musical styles. You will also be required to perform in solo and/or group situations. You will receive support and guidance in the selection of a suitable repertoire that will reflect the full range of your instrument, focus on your individual needs and abilities as well as contributing to your musical understanding. A large amount of self-study and individual practice is essential to successfully complete this Unit. Tuition will be offered in a one-to-one basis, in small groups and in an appropriate rehearsal environment.

You will be required to ensure that:

- ◆ your musical performance is of the necessary standard to allow assessment to take place. This performance will be recorded.
- ◆ written evidence, covering evaluation of your musical performance is submitted on due date.

In Outcome 1 you will be required to rehearse four pieces from a set repertoire and perform one of these for assessment purposes.

In Outcome 2 you will be required to select, rehearse and perform a set of pieces.

In Outcome 3 you will be required to critically self-evaluate your musical performance.