



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Singing Skills for Musical Theatre 1

Unit code: H1L1 34

Superclass: LH

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Unit purpose

The purpose of this Unit is to provide candidates with practical knowledge and understanding of the skills required to demonstrate appropriate singing technique for musical theatre performance. This will be developed through a series of practical exercises.

It is primarily intended for candidates who wish to work specifically in the musical theatre industry.

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

- 1 Demonstrate singing techniques.
- 2 Rehearse a range of musical theatre songs using appropriate singing techniques.
- 3 Perform a range of musical theatre songs using appropriate singing techniques.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Access will be at the discretion of the centre and the following recommendations are for guidance only. Some previous singing experience is preferable and it would be beneficial if the candidate had some experience as a performer, but this isn't essential.

Credit points and level

3 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 7: (24 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.*

General information (cont)

Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

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.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Singing Skills for Musical Theatre 1

Unit code: H1L1 34

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 singing techniques.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Breathing
- ◆ Projection
- ◆ Pitch
- ◆ Tone
- ◆ Resonance
- ◆ Articulation

Evidence Requirements

The candidate's progress will be supported and assessed using observation checklists, which require the candidate to:

- ◆ demonstrate a series of warm-up techniques.
- ◆ practise and demonstrate singing exercises to improve their individual singing technique.

Outcome 2

Rehearse a range of musical theatre songs using appropriate singing techniques.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Rehearsal of contrasting solo material from the musical theatre repertoire
- ◆ Application of appropriate singing technique throughout the rehearsal process

Evidence Requirements

The assessor should use observation checklists to assess the candidate's performance throughout the rehearsal process.

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills through their ability to rehearse contrasting songs with appropriate use of singing technique.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Singing Skills for Musical Theatre 1

Outcome 3

Perform a range of musical theatre songs using appropriate singing techniques.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Appropriate use and development of singing technique and general musicianship
- ◆ Effective interpretation of style, mood and character
- ◆ Awareness and sensitivity to audience and performance space

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by performing a minimum of three musical theatre songs lasting between 7 and 10 minutes in total. Candidates will select contrasting songs to demonstrate versatility, range of musical theatre styles and application of Knowledge and/or Skills developed through Outcomes 1 and 2. The songs must be presented to appropriate performance standards.

Candidates will show that they can:

- ◆ demonstrate accurate use of the singing voice in relation to breath, projection, pitch, tone, resonance and articulation as appropriate to the song and the performance space.
- ◆ demonstrate the ability to communicate the text through the medium of song, using appropriate style, atmosphere, mood and characterisation.
- ◆ identify and practise appropriate selection of songs for presentation.
- ◆ rehearse the songs to an appropriate standard.
- ◆ present the songs to an appropriate audience.

A recording of at least one song will be made for supporting evidence. The assessor should use observation checklists to assess the candidate's performance.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Singing Skills for Musical Theatre 1

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 primarily designed as a mandatory Unit of the framework for the HNC/HND Musical Theatre Group Award and is delivered along with other relevant Units. The Unit could allow integration with Acting, Voice and Performance Units.

Guidance on the delivery of this Unit

The Unit is designed for musical theatre performers and should address specific singing techniques necessary for this medium. Techniques used should be relevant and stylistically appropriate to the delivery and demands of the musical theatre repertoire. Candidates should be encouraged to explore a variety of musical theatre songs to help them establish the strengths, weaknesses and versatility of their voice.

Songs should be chosen by or in collaboration with the tutor, ensuring that they are varied and of an appropriate level.

Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

This Unit will be assessed using observational checklists, which require the lecturer to assess whether the candidate has produced sufficient evidence of singing skills and techniques, and shown sufficient development throughout the duration of the Unit.

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1

The Assessment instruments should be practical exercises, which should be assessed on an on-going basis throughout the duration of the Unit.

Outcome 2

Assessment instruments should be practical exercises.

Individual or small group tutorials are recommended to ensure that candidates can correctly identify their individual needs and personal development requirements.

The assessment for this Outcome should be undertaken and successfully completed prior to the candidate progressing to Outcome 3.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Singing Skills for Musical Theatre 1

Outcome 3

The songs can either be performed on one assessment occasion, or on separate assessment occasions throughout the duration of the Unit.

Individual or small group tutorials are recommended to ensure that candidates can correctly identify their individual needs and personal development requirements.

Assessors should look for evidence of appropriate preparation for performance and justification of selections made for performance.

Online and Distance Learning

The Outcomes in this Unit rely on developing skills through interaction with a lecturer and/or fellow candidates, and so the opportunities for distance learning are limited. Centres may, however, find it possible to develop solutions, provided all Unit and verification requirements are met in full.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Candidates will have the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill *Working with Others* if the rehearsal and performance of musical theatre songs are carried out in groups.

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

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for candidates

Unit title: Singing Skills for Musical Theatre 1

This Unit is designed to allow you to develop specific singing techniques as a musical theatre performer. This Unit will introduce you to specific singing techniques for musical theatre performance and will allow you to develop these techniques as a musical theatre performer.

You will be given the opportunity to explore new techniques in a practical environment, practising singing exercises and applying them to the rehearsal and performance of a range of musical theatre songs which suit your vocal ability and vocal range.

Assessments will include:

- ◆ Tutor observation and questioning
- ◆ Rehearsal
- ◆ Performance

The emphasis of the Unit is on the practical and on-going development of your individual singing voice.

It is advised that singing exercises be practised on a regular basis to allow maximum development of your voice.

Attendance at all classes is essential due to on-going nature of skills building and assessment by your assessor.

In order to complete this Unit successfully, you will be required to achieve a satisfactory level of performance in all three Outcomes.