



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Music: Live Performance (SCQF level 5)

CODE F58K 11

SUMMARY

In this Unit candidates will be given the opportunity to develop skills in preparing for and performing live music in a group or solo context. They will select and rehearse a programme of music, detail technical requirements for the performance, perform the programme at a live event and evaluate their own performance.

This Unit is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Music (SCQF level 6) and the National Certificate in Sound Production (SCQF level 6), but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit is suitable for candidates who have some previous musical experience and have an interest in developing the knowledge and skills required for live performance.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Contribute to the preparation of a programme of music for a live performance.
- 2 Participate in the performance of a programme of music at a live event.
- 3 Evaluate own performance of music at a live event.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have attained one of the following, or equivalent:

- ◆ Intermediate 1 Music
- ◆ Standard Grade Music at General level

Administrative Information

Superclass: LH

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CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Intermediate 2 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*).

**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.*

CORE SKILLS

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

The Unit provides opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the following Core Skills:

- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Problem Solving
- ◆ Working with Others

These opportunities are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit Specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

OUTCOME 1

Contribute to the preparation of a programme of music for a live performance.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Contribute constructively to the selection of a programme of music.
- (b) Contribute constructively to the planning of structured rehearsals.
- (c) Participate effectively during rehearsals.
- (d) Comply fully with health and safety requirements during rehearsals.
- (e) Contribute constructively to the production of a technical requirements specification for a live performance.

OUTCOME 2

Participate in the performance of a programme of music at a live event.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Perform with sufficient accuracy in pitch and rhythm to communicate the sense of the music.
- (b) Perform musically by maintaining musical flow and accurately interpreting tempo, phrasing and dynamics.
- (c) Maintain agreed standards of behaviour.
- (d) Comply fully with health and safety requirements during a live event.

OUTCOME 3

Evaluate own performance of music at a live event.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of own performance at a live event.
- (b) Suggest realistic strategies to improve own performance at future live events.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

The requirements for the Outcomes are as follows:

Outcomes 1 and 3

A candidate is required to produce written and/or oral evidence, supplemented by an Assessor Observation Checklist, which:

- ◆ lists the music chosen for a live performance of at least 15 minutes' duration
- ◆ details the rehearsal schedule leading up to the performance
- ◆ details the candidate's participation in, and contribution to, rehearsal
- ◆ details the technical requirements specification
- ◆ describes how Health and Safety requirements were satisfied during rehearsal and performance
- ◆ evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of own performance
- ◆ suggests realistic strategies to improve own performance at future live events

This evidence can be gathered in open-book supervised conditions at appropriate points in the Unit.

Outcome 2

Evidence of each candidate's performance must be detailed on an Assessor Observation Checklist. This evidence must be based on **one** live performance of at least 15 minutes' duration, which demonstrates the candidate's musical and professional performance.

The presence of an audience, other than an assessor, is optional.

National Unit Specification: support notes

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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 an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Music (SCQF level 6) and the National Certificate in Sound Production (SCQF level 6), but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit is designed primarily to allow candidates the opportunity to develop as effective practitioners of live music. The Unit explores the process of preparation for live performance and the product of performing in a live context. In preparing for live performance, candidates will develop skills in the planning, organisation and execution of effective rehearsals, which should enhance their technical and musical competence. Through participation in a live performance, candidates will have the opportunity to develop skills in professional and musical practice and will develop knowledge of acceptable standards of behaviour.

It is anticipated that this Unit will be used mainly to assess live performance of musicians who are on stage, but it would be possible to use the Unit as a vehicle for assessment of musicians playing a supporting role, perhaps performing in an orchestra pit, behind a screen or in the wings.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

It is recommended that this Unit be delivered in a group context. Candidates should be given guidance on how to plan programme content, set targets for rehearsal and organise and carry out effective rehearsals. Where appropriate they should be given guidance on the production of a technical requirements specification (technical rider) which may include a description of the backline, stage set-up, sound reinforcement input channel and audio foldback monitoring system requirements for the performance. Candidates should also be introduced to relevant health and safety requirements and their responsibilities in relation to these.

One approach might be to focus candidates on preparing for a specific event in a particular venue. They could then prepare a suitable set list, customise their technical rider to suit the venue and consider venue-specific health and safety issues.

An important aspect of live performance is professionalism. Candidates should be encouraged to develop positive aspects of behaviour such as being punctual, being reliable, being prepared and showing respect and consideration to others involved in the performance or production.

Candidates should be given opportunities to participate in performances throughout the delivery of the Unit to allow the development of the necessary skills before summative assessment. It would be beneficial for candidates to observe performances by more experienced performers during the delivery of this Unit.

By the end of the Unit, the teacher/lecturer's role should become more that of facilitator, allowing candidates to reinforce their learning by repeatedly going through the process of preparing for performance, performing and evaluating their performance.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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As a potentially valuable learning and teaching tool, audio/video recording could be used for the candidate to reflect on individual rehearsal and performing approaches and for formative assessment strategies.

Health and safety should be integral to teaching and learning, and centres should view this holistically in any practical exercises. Candidates should be made aware that health and safety is the concern of all professionals and should adhere to current legislation.

Candidates must be aware of, and adhere at all times to the requirements of current copyright legislation in relation to the creation, performance and use of music and other forms of intellectual property.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Candidates will be producing written and oral communication evidence as part of the assessment. This offers ideal opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Communication*.

Candidates will also have the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill *Working with Others* if Outcomes 1 and 2 are undertaken on a group basis.

There are opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* in the selection of their music programme and planning of their live performance.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Performance evidence should be gathered during one performance event of at least 15 minutes' duration, when the centre judges the candidate is ready for assessment. There are opportunities for live performances to take place in many types of venue. Suitable venues include performance areas within centres, small clubs, theatres, large venues, and festivals. The chosen assessment environment should have an adequate technical specification. Performance in front of an audience other than the assessor is not a requirement of the Unit, but will add atmosphere and a sense of occasion to the event.

It is at the discretion of the centre whether backline amplification and instruments are provided for or supplied by the candidate.

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by information and communications technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES AND/OR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

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. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).