



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Music: Live Performance (SCQF level 6)

CODE F5E5 12

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 be given a programme of music to rehearse, detail technical requirements for the performance, perform part of the programme at a short live event, evaluate their own performance, and then implement strategies to improve their performance during a longer performance of the full programme at a live event.

This Unit is a mandatory Unit within the National Certificate in Music (SCQF level 6) and an optional Unit within 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 Evaluate own performance of music at a short live event.
- 3 Participate in the performance of a programme of music at a longer live event and implement identified strategies for improvement.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

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

- ◆ *Music: Live Performance* (SCQF level 5)

Administrative Information

Superclass: LH

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

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CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Higher (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*).

**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 planning of structured rehearsals.
- (b) Identify the challenges involved in the preparation of the programme(s).
- (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

Evaluate own performance of music at a short live event.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Perform part of a programme of music at a short live event.
- (b) Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of own performance at a short live event.
- (c) Suggest realistic strategies to improve own performance at future short live events.

OUTCOME 3

Participate in the performance of a programme of music at a longer live event and implement identified strategies for improvement.

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) Implement realistic strategies to improve own performance at a live event.
- (e) Comply fully with health and safety requirements during a live event.

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 assessor will select a programme of music appropriate to the candidate(s).

The requirements for the Outcomes are as follows:

Outcome 1

A candidate is required to produce written and/or oral evidence which:

- ◆ lists the music given for a live performance of at least 20 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

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

Outcome 2

A candidate is required to produce written and/or oral evidence, which:

- ◆ evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of their own performance
- ◆ suggests realistic strategies to improve their own performance at future live events

This evidence must be based on a live performance of at least 5 minutes' duration, the content of which is an extract from the programme for the planned 20 minute live performance.

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

Outcome 3

Evidence of each candidate's performance must be detailed on an assessor pro forma. This evidence must be based on the live performance of at least 20 minutes' duration. This performance must demonstrate the candidate's musical and professional performance.

For Performance Criterion (d) strategies for improvement produced in Outcome 2 must be compared against the candidate's 20 minute live performance. Performance evidence is required to demonstrate the implementation of some of the strategies for improvements from Outcome 2.

The presence of an audience, other than an assessor, is mandatory. This assessment should take place on one assessment occasion.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Music: Live Performance (SCQF level 6)

The Assessment Support Pack (ASP) for this Unit provides sample assessment material including an Instrument of assessment, specified briefs and checklists. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to the Assessment Support Pack to ensure a comparable standard.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Music: Live Performance (SCQF level 6)

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 a mandatory Unit within the National Certificate in Music (SCQF level 6) and an optional Unit within 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. This Unit builds on the *Music: Live Performance* (SCQF level 5) Unit.

The Unit explores the process of preparation for live performance and performing in a live context in front of an audience. 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. By participating in the performance of part of a programme, candidates will have the opportunity to evaluate their own performance and implement strategies to improve this. They will then be able to incorporate the results of these strategies for improvement in the performance of their full 20 minute programme. The shorter five minute extract can be performed as part of a rehearsal or as a separate event. Candidates will 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 to the genre/style 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.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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A desirable skill for musicians working professionally is the ability to rehearse material quickly and accurately. One of the ways to accomplish this can be by actively evaluating their existing strengths and weaknesses. Candidates should be presented with music of varying styles throughout the 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.

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 in Outcomes 1 and 2. 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 of *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 planning of their live performance.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Performance evidence should be gathered during the second longer performance 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.

A significant requirement that differentiates this Unit from *Music: Live Performance* (SCQF level 5) is the requirement for the candidate to evaluate their short performance and take appropriate action to implement strategies for improvement during the longer full performance.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Music: Live Performance (SCQF level 6)

Where it is unclear whether candidates have attempted to implement realistic strategies to improve their own performance, assessors may wish to clarify this further in discussion with the candidate.

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.

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).