



## National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Keyboard Skills for Music Production (SCQF level 4)

**Unit code:** H1WH 10

**Superclass:** LH

**Publication date:** July 2012

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

## Summary

This Unit enables candidates to develop a basic ability in the use of the keyboard as a creative tool for music production. These skills may be useful when working in a number of roles, such as composer, songwriter, arranger, producer, engineer or studio technician. This is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in Music (SCQF level 5) and will reinforce and enhance skills learned within other Units, eg *Music: Aural Skills and Music Literacy*. The Unit will help prepare candidates for progression to further study at SCQF level 5 and above.

## Outcomes

- 1 Use the keyboard effectively as a tool for music production.
- 2 Demonstrate use of chords I, IV and V in a selection of major and minor keys.

## Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if a candidate has some previous experience of music theory or has a basic level of competence playing an instrument. An ability to read music could also enhance the candidate's understanding of the skills and knowledge required to achieve this Unit.

## Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 4: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4\*)

*\*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)**

**Unit title:** Keyboard Skills for Music Production (SCQF level 4)

### **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.

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

**Unit title:** Keyboard Skills for Music Production (SCQF level 4)

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**

Use the keyboard effectively as a tool for music production.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Play a selection of major and minor scales.
- (b) Play a single line melody.

### **Outcome 2**

Demonstrate use of chords I, IV and V in a selection of major and minor keys.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Play chords I, IV and V in root position.
- (b) Play broken chords.
- (c) Play a harmony or bass part to a given accompaniment.

## National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Keyboard Skills for Music Production (SCQF level 4)

### Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

Performance evidence is required which demonstrates that the candidate has achieved all Outcomes to the standard specified in the Outcome and Performance Criteria.

The requirements for the Outcomes are:

#### Outcome 1

- Play 2 octave scales, hands separately, in the keys of C, F and G major and A and D minor. Candidate may choose to play either melodic, harmonic or natural minor scales. Candidates should prepare the material in all five keys and the assessor should choose two of these for performance.
- Play a single line melody of at least 12 bars using right or left hand. Candidates should prepare material for either hand and the assessor should choose which hand to use for performance.

#### Outcome 2

- Play chords I, IV and V; root position — root in left hand; root, third, fifth in right hand in C, F and G major, and A and D minor. Candidates should prepare the material in all five keys and the assessor should choose two of these for performance.
- Play broken chords of C, G and F major, A and D minor with left or right hand in the following pattern:



Candidates should prepare the material in all five keys and the assessor should choose two of these for performance.

- Play a harmony or bass part of at least 12 bars to a given accompaniment which uses chords I, IV and V. The accompaniment may either be pre-recorded or performed live and the candidate may play from memory or make use of manuscript or a lead sheet/chord chart.

## **National Unit specification: support notes**

**Unit title:** Keyboard Skills for Music Production (SCQF level 4)

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.

At the time of writing, there are no National Occupational Standards that the Unit can be mapped against. However, deliverers should consider National Occupational Standards as part of the context for delivering this Unit, when they are available.

### **Guidance on the content and context for this Unit**

This is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in Music (SCQF level 5) but can also be delivered as a freestanding Unit.

This Unit enables candidates to develop a basic ability in the use of the keyboard as a tool when acting as composer/songwriter/arranger, producer, engineer or studio technician. Where the Unit is delivered as part of the National Certificate in Music, it will reinforce and enhance skills learned within other Units, eg *Music: Aural Skills and Music Literacy*. The skills developed will be useful for inputting musical information into MIDI sequencing and/or multi track recording equipment.

Outcome 1 develops basic skills in realising melodic material with either hand.

Outcome 2 focuses on the playing of chords in root position and introduces elementary harmonic concepts.

### **Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit**

This Unit should lend itself well to both individual and group tuition. Although it is intended primarily as an introduction to the use of the keyboard as a tool for music production, it would also function well as an introduction to the keyboard as a second instrument. The ability to play scales and chords is fundamental to developing any technical fluency on the instrument and candidates should be encouraged to develop a manageable and productive practice routine. Candidates should also be encouraged to investigate a wide range of musical styles before making choices about what they will play for assessment.

### **Essential Skills**

As candidates will be developing their musical skills and building a practice routine for self-improvement, they may develop essential enterprise skills. Additionally, as they will have to self-manage their practice routine and develop problem solving skills they may develop essential employability skills.

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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### Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

One approach to assessment might be to gather evidence for the more technical aspects of the Unit (the performance of scales and broken chords) at one sitting and then gather evidence for the more performance-focused elements from events that arise naturally within the studio, eg at a digital audio workstation or at a live performance. There will be a degree of professional judgement required in terms of assessing tempo at which scales and broken chords are performed. Centres should take care to ensure that performances are given in real time.

### 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 Communication 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)*.

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will develop basic keyboarding skills as needed by a composer, songwriter, arranger, producer, engineer or studio technician. Candidates will:

- ◆ develop basic skills in realising melodic material with either hand
- ◆ play chords in root position and introduce elementary harmonic concepts

This means that as candidates are doing this Unit, candidates may develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving*.

### 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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