

26 January 2010

To: SQA Co-ordinators  
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

cc: HMle  
LEA Contacts  
SQA Business Development Managers

Action by Recipient	
	Response required
✓	Note and pass on
	None - update/information only

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Dear Colleague

### **National Qualifications – Music Update January 2010**

Please pass this letter to the member of staff responsible for Music.

This letter is a mid-session update on National Qualifications (NQ) Music and contains important information. Update letters are a main source of communication from SQA. Subject-specific letters, like this one, provide up-to-date information and advice to centres and candidates. On publication, one copy of each update letter is sent to the SQA Co-ordinator of every centre presenting Music and a copy is also published at that time on [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk) (see NQ Music homepage).

This letter contains information on the following:

- 1. NQ Music: Performing document – updated version**
- 2. Amendments to Higher and Advanced Higher Question Papers for 2010**
- 3. Music with Performing: Accompanying Exemplification**
- 4. New Group Award developments for 2010**

#### **Appendix: History of changes to NQ Music: Performing document**

Please pass a copy of this letter and the appendix to your Music teaching and instrumental staff. Please contact either Emma Bratchell or myself on 0131 561 6811 ([mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk](mailto:mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk)) if you would like to discuss any of the contents of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Mary McDonald  
Qualifications Manager, National Qualifications

## **NQ Music: Performing document – Updated version**

An updated version of the *NQ Music: Performing* document (Publication code BB2878) is now available on SQA's website and the route to this is as follows:

- ◆ [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)
- ◆ select NQ (the orange logo)
- ◆ select a subject – Music
- ◆ select Support Materials from the Subject-Specific Links menu on the right
- ◆ select NQ Music: Performing

This is the key reference document which contains SQA's repertoire lists for all instruments – lists of pieces which exemplify the standard for each NQ level. This document was first published in November 2005 and distributed to all centres at that time in hard copy (blue spiral bound book).

From time to time, this important document will be updated and subsequent versions are available in electronic form only and published on SQA's website (see above). In any updated versions of this document nothing will be deleted but there will be new entries and additional pieces to help and support centres further.

Version 2 of the *NQ Music: Performing* document was published in November 2007 and, in that version, the sections on keyboard and Scots fiddle were added to and updated.

The additions to the new Version 3 of the publication concentrate mainly on the lists for Scottish traditional instruments which have been significantly extended and this is in response to requests we have had from centres seeking more guidance in these areas. As with Scots fiddle in 2007, we are very grateful for the input and expertise of specialists in these instrumental areas. SQA consulted with many instrumental teaching colleagues throughout Scotland in order to produce these new, extended lists in the following areas:

- ◆ Tin whistle
- ◆ Voice, with additional Scots songs and new Gaelic songs
- ◆ Stradella accordion
- ◆ Clarsach and harp
- ◆ Cello, with additional traditional Scottish pieces
- ◆ Piano, with additional Scottish pieces
- ◆ Bagpipe, with new tunes

In addition, the keyboard section has been updated with a selection of pieces at all levels.

The appendix to this letter is a very useful page which gives, in the form of a summary table, the history of changes to this repertoire lists document. For quick reference, please detach this page from the main Update letter and keep it with your original copy of the *NQ Music: Performing* document.

## **Amendments to Higher and Advanced Higher Question Papers for 2010**

The changes outlined below were first published in the Music Update Letter of November 2008 and then repeated in the Music Update Letter of 23 October 2009. See [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk). NQ, Music, Update Letters.

1. Listening questions requiring short answers (one or two words, or a phrase) will examine concepts introduced at Higher level. For example, in the 2008 Question Paper this refers to questions such as Question 6(a).  
*NB this does not refer to other questions, eg what is known as the cloze question – Question 7 in 2009 Higher or the sequential listening question (what is known as the "egg" question) – Question 2 in 2009 Higher*
2. The presentation of the multiple choice comparison of two musical excerpts, eg 2009 Higher Question 8, has been revised in order to assist candidates further. The grid used for rough working (Grid 1) will indicate the number of concepts to be identified for each individual excerpt.

An example of the revised presentation (based on Question 8 from the 2008 Higher Question Paper) is printed in full in the November 2008 Update letter.

Please note the following:

- ◆ New sentence in paragraph 3 of the stem of the question as follows:  
*The number of ticks required for each excerpt is indicated at the foot of each column.*
- ◆ The number of ticks required is now indicated in Grid 1 at the foot of that column for Excerpt 1 and the foot of the column for Excerpt 2.
- ◆ No change to Grid 2.

## **Music with Performing: Accompanying Exemplification**

In order to advise and support centres who are presenting candidates for the Accompanying option in the external Performing examination, exemplification of Unseen Accompanying tests (sight reading) have now been published.

The Accompanying option is available for piano, guitar and clarsach and candidates are required to perform a number of seen accompaniments and undertake unseen accompanying tests (sight reading).

The published exemplification shows an example of one test for each instrument at each NQ level and it is hoped that this will be a useful indicator of standards for centres who present Accompanying.

Exemplification is stored on SQA's secure website, so please see your SQA Co-ordinator to access these materials: *NQ Music, Accompanying Exemplification*.

## **New Group Awards Developments for 2010**

In the Update letter of October 2009 we informed centres about our on-going development of new qualifications within the National Qualification Group Award (NQGA) programme.

Two new National Certificates (NCs) have been available since August 2009: the NC in Music (SCQF level 6) and the NC in Sound Production (SCQF level 6). Even in this first operational year, there are an encouraging number of entries for the new NCs and for many of the new NQ Units which were developed as part of the NC programme but which can also be used as free-standing Units in schools and colleges.

Phase 2 of the NQ Group Award development programme is due to be completed by Easter 2010. Four new National Progression Awards (NPAs) have been developed in the following specialist areas:

- ◆ NPA in Music Performing (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ NPA in Music Business (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ NPA in Sound Production: Live (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ NPA in Sound Production: Recording (SCQF level 6)

Arrangements documents for these four National Progression Awards will be published in February 2010 and there will be a special Launch Event on 19 March 2010. (An invitation will be sent to all schools and colleges and details will also be available on [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk))

National Progression Awards (NPAs) are small group awards and the four new NPAs each comprise three NQ Units (120 hours). There has already been interest from colleges and schools in delivering these new NPAs. Please note that this new provision does not replace any existing qualifications but offers new, alternative flexible pathways for learners.

As Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) invites schools and colleges to think creatively about the courses and programmes they offer, the new NPAs respond to and endorse the four capacities of CfE: successful learners, effective contributors, confident individuals, responsible citizens. In addition, these new NPAs offer opportunities for personalisation, choice and specialism.

Please see the following pages for the frameworks of the new NPAs in Music and Sound Production. See also [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk) NQ Music for further information.

As part of this development programme of the past 3 years, SQA has also been able to develop and publish a number of Assessment Support Packs (ASPs) to support centres in their role as Unit assessors. An exciting part of this development has been the completion and publication in January 2010 of an online e-assessment – a first in Music. As a result, an electronic version of the assessment for Unit F58L 11 *Music: Aural Skills* (SCQF level 5) is now available and it is planned that other Music and Sound Production e-assessments will be developed in the future. These can be accessed through Solar, which is an online assessment tool that provides summative and formative e-assessment. In order to access any available e-assessments your centre must have a Solar administrator. Training is available to centres free of charge from SQA. More information is available at [www.sqasolar.org.uk](http://www.sqasolar.org.uk) or you can e-mail [solar@sqa.org.uk](mailto:solar@sqa.org.uk).

# National Progression Awards

## Music and Sound Production

### NPA in Music Business

<b>Mandatory Units</b>				
<b>Code</b>	<b>Unit Title</b>		<b>SCQF</b>	<b>Credits</b>
F5E7 12	Music: Promotion in the Music Industry	Mandatory	6	1
F58J 12	Music: An Introduction to the UK Music Industry	Mandatory	6	1
<b>Optional Units – choose one from four</b>				
F5E8 12	Music: Management in the Music Industry	Optional	6	1
F58F 12	Creative Project	Optional	6	1
F58M 12	Appreciation of Music	Optional	6	1
F5E6 13	Music: Organising a Community-based Musical Activity	Optional	7	1

### NPA in Music Performing

<b>Mandatory Units</b>				
<b>Code</b>	<b>Unit Title</b>		<b>SCQF</b>	<b>Credits</b>
F5E5 12	Music: Live Performance	Mandatory	6	1
F3F4 12	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice	Mandatory	6	1
<b>Optional Units – choose one from five</b>				
F3F4 11	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice	Optional	5	1
F58F 12	Creative Project	Optional	6	1
F5E2 12	Music: Technical Support	Optional	6	1
F5E7 12	Music: Promotion in the Music Industry	Optional	6	1

## NPA Sound Production: Live

<b>Mandatory Units</b>				
<b>Code</b>	<b>Unit Title</b>		<b>SCQF</b>	<b>Credits</b>
F58G 12	Sound: Understanding the Signal Path	Mandatory	6	1
F5E0 12	Sound: Reinforcement	Mandatory	6	1
<b>Optional Units – choose one from five</b>				
F5DS 12	Sound: Audio Electronics — An Introduction	Optional	6	1
F5E2 12	Music: Technical Support	Optional	6	1
F58F 12	Creative Project	Optional	6	1
F5E4 13	Music: Visuals for Live Performance	Optional	7	1

## NPA Sound Production: Recording

<b>Mandatory Units</b>				
<b>Code</b>	<b>Unit Title</b>		<b>SCQF</b>	<b>Credits</b>
F58H 12	Sound Engineering and Production	Mandatory	6	1
F58G 12	Sound: Understanding the Signal Path	Mandatory	6	1
<b>Optional Units – choose one from five</b>				
F58M 12	Appreciation of Music	Optional	6	1
F58F 12	Creative Project	Optional	6	1
F5E1 12	Sound: Music Remixing	Optional	6	1

## Appendix 1: History of changes to NQ Music: Performing document

### History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of this document, and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below.

Version number	Description	Date	Authorised by
01	Original Document	October 2005	Mary McDonald
02	Revised document available electronically at <a href="http://www.sqa.org.uk">www.sqa.org.uk</a>	November 2007	Mary McDonald
02	RSAMD Scottish Traditional Music Grade exam pieces becomes part of approved repertoire list	November 2007	Mary McDonald
02	Grid of Approved Combinations of Instruments now available on SQA's website and referenced in document	November 2007	Mary McDonald
02	Guidance on choice of instruments updated	November 2007	Mary McDonald
02	Keyboard section updated for Access 3 and Intermediate 1 and 2	November 2007	Mary McDonald
02	Scots Fiddle section updated with more accurate sources	November 2007	Mary McDonald
03	Grid of Approved Instrument Combinations added to document	January 2010	Mary McDonald
03	New section on Tin Whistle	January 2010	Mary McDonald
03	Voice section has been updated with additional Scots songs and new Gaelic songs	January 2010	Mary McDonald
03	Stradella Accordion section updated with a number of traditional Scottish pieces	January 2010	Mary McDonald
03	RSAMD Scottish Traditional Music Graded Harp syllabus referenced in both Clarsach and Harp sections	January 2010	Mary McDonald
03	Cello section updated with a number of traditional Scottish pieces	January 2010	Mary McDonald
03	Piano section updated with a number of traditional Scottish pieces	January 2010	Mary McDonald
03	Bagpipe section updated with a number of new tunes	January 2010	Mary McDonald
03	Keyboard section updated with a selection of pieces at all levels	January 2010	Mary McDonald