

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Music: Live Performance Skills 1

Unit code: DJ2A 34

Unit purpose: This unit is designed to give the candidate an understanding of the practical aspects associated with ‘gigging’ and to develop the skills necessary for a successful live performance. Candidates should also build knowledge and understanding of appropriate technology. The unit is aimed at candidates who wish to develop a high level of proficiency in the live performance of music.

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

1. Organise structured rehearsals.
2. Run structured rehearsals.
3. Perform live in a professional manner.

Credit points and level: 2 HN Credits at SCQF level 7: (16 SCQF credit points. 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.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit will be at the discretion of the Centre, however it is recommended that candidates should have experience playing in a group or ensemble situation where this is appropriate. This may be demonstrated by completion of a recognized programme of NQ Units, Higher Music or equivalent (SCQF level 6) or by prior experience.

Candidates should also have good communication skills. These may be demonstrated by the achievement of core skill Communication at Higher level or by possession of Higher English and Communication or a suitable NQ Communication Unit (SCQF level 5/6).

Core skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards core skills in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components.

General information for centres (cont)

Context for delivery: This is an optional Unit included in the frameworks for HNC/D Music group awards. It is recommended that it is taught and assessed within the context of the particular group award to which it contributes. For candidates undertaking the group award the assessment for this unit may be combined with:

HN Unit	Unit Title
	Music First Study 1: Instrumental
	Practical Musicianship
	Stagecraft for Musicians

The group award is primarily to provide candidates with technical or professional knowledge and skills related to a specific area. While all the units can be assessed individually it is anticipated that integration will occur.

Assessment: The Unit will be assessed by three separate components demonstrating knowledge and understanding of rehearsing and gigging. This will be achieved through:

- ◆ musical performance
- ◆ recorded (audio/video) evidence
- ◆ written evaluations.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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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

Organise structured rehearsals

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Recognise the value of a balanced set list
- ◆ Recognise the value of using appropriate musicians (unless performing solo)
- ◆ Co-ordinate relevant personnel
- ◆ Collate resources for relevant personnel
- ◆ Identify appropriate equipment for task

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ provide a written explanation for the choice of (on average) a 20-minute set list. This should include the reasons why particular pieces of music were chosen and an explanation of the placement of the pieces in the set list.
- ◆ provide a written explanation for the choice of musicians if an ensemble is to be used.
- ◆ compile a list of resources for relevant personnel. Resource materials for this could be: music/ chord charts, musical arrangements, lyrics and copies of the pieces of music on CD/ tape to be rehearsed, a copy of the stage plan and set list for sound engineer.
- ◆ provide written evidence explaining the choice of equipment to be used at rehearsal and performance.
- ◆ provide evidence of pre-planning. The evidence for pre-planning could be a good map of area, accurate directions, rehearsal times, suitable equipment supplied at rehearsal and identify any other issues.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome may be assessed individually, or Outcomes 1 and 2 may be assessed holistically. Candidate's responses should be in the form of a written submission.

Should there be ambiguity regarding a candidate's response, oral questioning may be used to eliminate any doubt as to the candidate's understanding. The lecturer should note questions and responses.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Music: Live Performance Skills 1

Outcome 2

Run structured rehearsals

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Run a structured rehearsal
- ◆ Change parts/arrangements as required
- ◆ Create a well balanced sound during rehearsal
- ◆ Keep the ensemble focused on performance where appropriate
- ◆ Communicate with key personnel relating to performance
- ◆ Recognise any Health and Safety issues.

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ run rehearsals in a satisfactory manner,
- ◆ focus rehearsals on creating dynamics within the set
- ◆ demonstrate good communication skills relating to relevant personnel, e.g. promoter, manager, agent, sound engineer and/ or other band members.
- ◆ create a well balanced sound overall during rehearsals
- ◆ show motivational skills
- ◆ show awareness of the limited time factor
- ◆ write a pre-gig evaluation on the problems and solutions at rehearsal as well as any Health and Safety issues
- ◆ write an evaluation of structured rehearsals

Rehearsals should be recorded on a high quality format and kept as evidence for external moderation.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome may be assessed individually, or Outcomes 1 and 2 may be assessed holistically. Candidates responses should be in the form of a written submission as well as performance evidence of the rehearsals.

For candidates undertaking the group award the assessment for this unit may be combined with Practical Musicianship.

The candidate will be issued with limited rehearsal time appropriate to the completion of the set. The rehearsals could be recorded or video taped to show good working practice. It would not be necessary to record the entire rehearsal but part of the on going process as a snap shot.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Music: Live Performance Skills 1

Should there be ambiguity regarding a candidate's response, oral questioning may be used to eliminate any doubt as to the candidate's understanding. The lecturer should note questions and responses.

The lecturer should have a checklist for the above evidence requirements.

Outcome 3

Perform live in a professional manner

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Maintain the focus of the performers
- ◆ Create and maintain a well balanced stage sound
- ◆ Liaise with key venue personnel
- ◆ Perform the gig in a professional manner

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ enter and exit the stage in a professional manner
- ◆ maintain tuning of the instruments during the performance
- ◆ maintain good on-stage sound, from sound check to performance through consultation with the relevant personnel
- ◆ adhere to the set time as agreed with the promoter
- ◆ submit a written post-gig evaluation on problems and solutions at live performance

The performance should be recorded on a high quality format and kept as evidence for external moderation.

A lecturer should use a checklist to record achievement of each of the above Evidence Requirements.

Assessment guidelines

Assessment of this outcome will take the form of one or more live performances in a solo or group context. The lecturer should have a checklist for the above evidence requirements.

Should there be ambiguity regarding a candidate's response, oral questioning may be used to eliminate any doubt as to the candidate's understanding. The lecturer should note questions and responses.

For candidates undertaking the group award the assessment for this unit may be combined with Music First Study 1: Instrument and Stagecraft for Musicians units.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DJ2A 34
Unit title:	Music: Live Performance Skills 1
Superclass category:	LH
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History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Increase in credit value from 1 to 2.	24/8/06
03	Removal of Word Count and Presentation Length.	26/05/11

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Music: Live Performance Skills 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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The unit is intended to prepare the candidate for the day-to-day aspects of presenting a live performance. It is assumed the candidate will have some prior knowledge and an awareness of the process of structured rehearsals. The unit deliberately emphasises the preparation of the live performance. This takes into account the collating of the music and ensuring the set list is the correct length in terms of time allocated for the performance, contacting and engaging the musicians where appropriate, organising the rehearsal room and ensuring the correct equipment is available for the task.

The candidate should also be aware of the requirements of all relevant personnel and if any notation or lyrics are needed. The candidate will effectively be acting as the team leader and be responsible for co-ordinating all aspects of the structured rehearsal, therefore good communication skills with the relevant personnel must be in evidence.

The second part of the unit concentrates on the actual running of the rehearsals. Once the rehearsals are in full flow the candidate should pay attention to particular musical parts and the arrangement of the material. Special attention should be taken to ensure the overall sound is well balanced. The candidate will be responsible for keeping the rehearsal schedule on track and the key personnel focused on the task ahead. Finally the candidate must ensure the material is ready for public presentation, paying close attention through consultation with relevant personnel to the balance of the on stage sound and ensuring the performance is carried out in a professional manner.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This unit is an optional unit of a group award. The unit will provide candidates with technical or professional knowledge and skills related to a specific area. While all the units can be assessed individually it is anticipated that integration will occur. Those undertaking the group award may also integrate these outcomes with outcomes from Stagecraft for Musicians, Songwriting, Music First Study 1: Composition, Music First Study 1: Instrument and Practical Musicianship.

The assessment will be undertaken when the candidate has successfully rehearsed the material and carried out the live performance.

This unit will allow progression to Music: Live Performance Skills 2 in the HND in Music framework.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Music: Live Performance Skills 1

Open learning

This unit could be delivered by open learning with suitable support material. The candidate would have to provide written evidence of outcome 1, with written and video evidence of outcomes 2 and 3. Delivering centres will be responsible for ensuring authenticity of candidate's work.

For information for normal open learning arrangements, please refer to the SQA guide *Assessment and Quality Assurance of Open and Distance Learning* (SQA, 2000).

Candidates with additional support needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. 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. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Additional Support Needs* (BA 2399, SQA, due 2004).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Music: Live Performance Skills 1

This unit is designed to give you an understanding of the practical aspects associated with a live performance and to recognise the main issues involved.

It is primarily intended to prepare you for co-ordinating a set list, organising any musicians needed and perform the pieces live.

Firstly, you must decide what pieces you would like to play. Secondly you should place these pieces in an acceptable well balanced order. Unless this is a solo performance, you must decide which musicians are best suited for the task. You will then organise a series of structured rehearsals to a limited time scale. Once this has been established you must show good co-ordinating and communication skills making sure all relevant resources and personnel have been organised for the smooth running of the rehearsals.

You must then oversee the efficient running of the rehearsals ensuring the relevant personnel are well aware of their responsibilities. Any change in arrangements or individual parts is your responsibility. This can be achieved through consultation with the ensemble where this applies. You must create a balanced sound at rehearsal and keep the focus on the project. At the venue you will pay close attention to the overall stage sound at the sound check and make sure this is maintained at the performance through consultation with relevant personnel. You must also ensure the duration of the set is as agreed with the promoter. In order to complete this unit successfully you must show the ability to:

- ◆ organise and co-ordinate people
- ◆ collate resources
- ◆ work to a specific time schedule

This should be done with written evidence for:

- ◆ the chosen material
- ◆ the order in which they are to be presented
- ◆ the choice of particular musicians unless solo performance

You must also submit evidence for the pre-planning of the structured rehearsals and any musical arrangements required. This could be:

- ◆ a detailed map of the area
- ◆ accurate directions
- ◆ rehearsal times
- ◆ suitable equipment supplied at rehearsal
- ◆ relevant music scores

The rehearsals must be recorded for evidence of your working process by:

- ◆ a recording on a high quality format, normally video
- ◆ a post rehearsal evaluation must be submitted giving details of any major issues.

The live performance must be evidenced by:-

- ◆ a recording on a high quality format, normally video
- ◆ a post performance evaluation must be submitted highlighting any major issues.