

## Higher National Unit Specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Music for the Visual Arts

**Unit code:** DR12 35

**Unit purpose:** The Unit is designed to provide candidates with the skills to compose music for the visual arts. This will be achieved by candidates creating an original composition to support a chosen piece of visual art and then, to critically evaluate their own work. The Unit is aimed at candidates who wish to develop a high level of competence in using music for various visual arts including: TV/Film soundtracks, Electronic Games, Still Images, Dance, Theatre, and TV Advertisements.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Create an original composition to support a chosen piece of visual art.
- 2 Critically evaluate own compositions.

**Credit points and level:** 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8\*).

*\*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 essential that candidates should have a level of competence in composition and in the use of chosen compositional tools. This may be evidenced by the possession of the Units Music First Study 1: Composition (DJ20 34), Music Sequencing and Programming (DJ2Y 34), Digital Audio Workstations 1 (DJ23 34).

**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.

**Context for delivery:** If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

**Assessment:** There are two assessments for this Unit:

Outcome 1 Will be in the form of a submission of an original composition supporting a chosen visual art and recorded on a high quality format. A written description, or an appropriate representation of the stimuli is also required.

Outcome 2 Will be assessed by means of oral presentation or a written submission.

## **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**

Create an original composition to support a chosen piece of visual art

#### **Knowledge and/or skills**

- ◆ Identify visual stimulus to generate initial musical material
- ◆ Develop initial musical material
- ◆ Compose music which supports the visual stimuli
- ◆ Produce a notated representation of the music relevant to the chosen style and medium

#### **Evidence requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can compose a piece of music to support a chosen visual art. Candidates will also be required to provide either:

- ◆ a written description words, or
- ◆ an appropriate representation of the stimuli

The original composition should be recorded on a high quality format together with a relevant notated representation of the material. The notational representation may take the form of a score, lead sheet or performance plan. Centres must ensure the authenticity of candidates' work.

For success at this Outcome there will be evidence of the candidate's effective manipulation of musical material, including any appropriate combination of musical concepts such as melodic, rhythmic, harmonic, structural, textural and timbral.

While there is no mandatory duration of the submission it must demonstrate sufficient use of musical material.

#### **Assessment guidelines**

The assessment for this Outcome will be a final recording in high quality format together with notated representation of the material.

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 for the Visual Arts

### **Outcome 2**

Critically evaluate own compositions

#### **Knowledge and/or skills**

- ◆ Justify the selection of composition tools employed
- ◆ Evaluate creative potential of compositional tools
- ◆ Justify the creative decisions made and outline compositional processes

#### **Evidence requirements**

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can produce a critical evaluation. The evaluation should illustrate their reasons for selecting the chosen compositional tools and justify the choice of musical material in relation to the chosen piece of visual art.

Candidates may opt to deliver an oral presentation or alternatively submit a written evaluation of their work.

#### **Assessment guidelines**

Candidates may deliver an oral presentation outlining points as stated in knowledge and/or skills. Assessors may use 'viva voce' style questioning to identify underpinning knowledge.

Alternatively, candidates may choose to submit a written evaluation. While the assessment will focus on quality, to illustrate ideas in sufficient depth, a written submission would be expected.

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.

## Administrative Information

**Unit code:** DR12 35  
**Unit title:** Music for the Visual Arts  
**Superclass category:** LF  
**Date of publication:** August 2005  
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### History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Removal of Word Count and Presentation Length.	27/05/11

**Source:** SQA

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

### **Unit title:** Music for the Visual Arts

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 has been developed as optional Unit within the framework of the HND Music Group Award. The content of the Unit involves the candidate creating an original composition to support a chosen piece of visual art, and critically self evaluating their own work. The purpose of the Unit is to allow candidates to develop a high level of competence in creating music to visual art stimuli. This will enable them to develop relevant industrial skills for the roles of composer/producer of music for the visual arts including: TV/Film soundtracks, Electronic Games, Still Images, Dance, Theatre, and TV Advertisements.

### **Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit**

This Unit should be delivered using a candidate-centred approach. For Outcome 1 delivery should be sufficiently flexible to allow candidates to select a preferred visual art stimulus and choose compositional tools relevant to the medium. Lecturers will facilitate candidates' progress and observe performance during the creative process. Lecturers/Assessors may clarify candidates' underpinning knowledge by using 'viva voce' style questioning. This will also be applicable in the assessment of Outcome 2 where candidates opt to deliver an oral presentation or complete a written assignment that demonstrates critical evaluation of their work. The Unit is sufficiently flexible to allow candidates to work with any preferred musical genre. In this respect, assessment of the quality of the composition will stem from a range of possible combinations of musical features including: melody, rhythm, harmony, texture, structure and timbre. Centres must ensure the authenticity of candidates' work.

### **Open learning**

This Unit could be delivered by open learning. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence. Delivering centres will be responsible for ensuring authenticity of candidates' work.

For further information and advice please refer to the SQA document *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* (A1030).

### **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 Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on the SQA website [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk).

## **General information for candidates**

### **Unit title:** Music for the Visual Arts

This Unit is designed to give you the opportunity to develop your composition skills with particular focus on composing music for the visual arts. The term 'visual art' encompasses a wide range of media including TV/film soundtracks, Cartoon and Electronic Games soundtracks, Dance, Theatre, Still Images and TV Advertisements.

You can choose any visual art of your preference and compose music in any style you wish.

There are two Outcomes in this Unit:

- 1 Create an original composition to support a chosen piece of visual art.
- 2 Critically evaluate own compositions.

For Outcome 1 you will be required to compose original music to support your chosen visual art. Your music should have evidence of musical development and include any combination of the following musical features: melody, rhythm, harmony, texture, structure and timbre. You will need to ensure your music is recorded on a high quality format. You are also required to provide a notated representation of the music. The notated representation of your music may take the form a score, performance plan or lead sheet. Additionally you will be required to provide a written description, or an appropriate representation of the stimuli.

For Outcome 2 you will be required to critically evaluate your work by means of an oral presentation outlining why you chose to use the specific compositional tools, how you developed and organised your music, and why you feel that the music is effective in supporting your piece of visual art. It is also acceptable to produce written work as an alternative to an oral presentation.