



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Singing Skills for the Actor 2

Unit code: H1L3 35

Superclass: LH

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Unit purpose

The purpose of this Unit is to equip candidates with the practical means and skills to extend and apply singing technique to complex aspects of presentation and performance. This Unit is intended to develop skills covered in *Singing Skills for the Actor 1* and to give candidates detailed knowledge and understanding of singing technique. It is primarily intended for candidates who wish to work as practitioners/performers in the theatre/entertainment industry.

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

- 1 Demonstrate exercises for developing singing technique.
- 2 Prepare and rehearse contrasting songs.
- 3 Present contrasting songs to performance standard.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Access will be at the discretion of the centre and the following recommendations are for guidance only.

Candidates should have good singing skills. This may be demonstrated by the achievement of the Unit: *Singing Skills for the Actor 1*. This Unit develops the work explored in the Unit *Singing Skills for the Actor 1*.

Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit 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.*

General information (cont)

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.

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.

This Unit is included in the optional section of the framework for HNC/HND Acting and Performance.

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

Demonstrate exercises for developing singing technique.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Range of exercises for consolidating and extending singing technique

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need performance evidence that demonstrates their competence in the demonstration of the exercises. The candidate will be assessed using observation checklists.

Outcome 2

Prepare and rehearse contrasting songs.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Technique for solo singing
- ◆ Technique for ensemble singing
- ◆ Appropriate technique for singing styles
- ◆ Application of rehearsal process to preparation for performance

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate all aspects of the Knowledge and/or Skills in this Outcome by showing that they have an accurate understanding of the practicalities of selecting and rehearsing a range of songs.

Candidates are required to rehearse two contrasting songs to include a solo song (1–3 minutes). The second song can be an ensemble piece (2–4 minutes) or another suitable contrasting solo song.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Singing Skills for the Actor 2

The group song must be in a minimum of two part harmony.

Candidates must be given the opportunity to work individually and in groups.

Candidates will be assessed using observation checklists.

Outcome 3

Present contrasting songs to performance standard.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Presentation of contrasting songs
- ◆ Appropriate use and development of singing techniques

Evidence Requirements

Candidates are required to present contrasting songs to include a:

solo song (1–3 minutes). The contrasting song can be an ensemble piece (2–4 minutes) or another solo song.

The songs should be vocally challenging and delivered to performance standards.

The evidence presented should:

- ◆ demonstrate synthesis of acting and singing technique.
- ◆ demonstrate effective portrayal of character, style, mood, feeling and atmosphere.
- ◆ demonstrate developed singing technique in appropriate use of breath, resonance, articulation, pitch and projection.
- ◆ demonstrate effective communication through accuracy, fluency and expressiveness.
- ◆ demonstrate sensitivity and awareness of intended audience and performance space.

The candidate is given the opportunity to work individually and in groups.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Singing Skills for the Actor 2

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 primarily designed to allow the actor the option in the second year of the HND programme to develop further the singing skills gained in the Unit *Singing Skills for the Actor 1* with a view to enhancing employment potential as a rounded performer.

Technical competence is necessary but should be balanced with the demonstration of acting skills through the medium of song.

The Unit is not designed for any specific musical style and candidates should be allowed to explore a wide range of musical songs to help them establish the strengths, weaknesses and range of their voice.

Examples: Character Songs; Musical Theatre; Popular; Classical; Folk; Blues; Rock; Country.

While the Unit is designed as a stand alone Unit for actors with singing ability, it could allow integration with elements of the Unit *Voice Skills 2: Applying Skills for Performance*.

Guidance on the delivery of this Unit

It is recommended that singing exercises provide the basis for each lesson as warm-up for rehearsal and performance of songs.

It is also recommended that songs are performed either in an audition situation (solo) or to an audience.

Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

This Unit could be assessed by three instruments of assessment which require candidates to produce evidence of the development of singing technique.

For Outcome 1, candidates will be practically assessed on the demonstration of the exercises.

For Outcome 2, a practical exercise will allow candidates to demonstrate on-going rehearsal of contrasting songs.

For Outcome 3, a practical exercise will allow candidates to perform two contrasting songs.

Please note, candidates must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified for each Outcome, combination of Outcomes or for the Unit as a whole in order to pass the Unit.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Singing Skills for the Actor 2

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1

Assessment for this Outcome should be partially integrated with Outcomes 2 and 3.

Outcome 2

The assessment for this Outcome should be undertaken and passed prior to the candidate progressing to Outcome 3.

A report or log may be presented to support evidence of the rehearsal process.

Outcome 3

The assessment instrument should be a practical exercise supported by observation checklists.

Online and Distance Learning

The Outcomes in this Unit rely on developing skills through interaction with a lecturer and/or fellow candidates, and so the opportunities for distance learning are limited. Centres may, however, find it possible to develop solutions, provided all Unit and verification requirements are met in full.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Candidates will have the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill *Working with Others* if Outcomes 2 and 3 are undertaken on a group basis.

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

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for candidates

Unit title: Singing Skills for the Actor 2

This Unit is designed to allow you to further develop the singing skills gained in *Singing Skills for the Actor 1*. As an acting student, these advanced singing skills have the potential to allow you to reach the standard required for professional auditions.

To begin with, you will explore new singing exercises to consolidate and extend your singing technique.

You will then be given the opportunity to explore a wide range of songs, from which you will choose two contrasting pieces to rehearse — one solo and one group or two solo songs. This provides the basis of the assessment for the last Outcome, which will involve you in a performance of these songs as the final summative assessment for this Unit. Attendance at all classes is essential due to the on-going assessment.

It is advised that singing exercises are practised on a regular basis to allow maximum development of your voice.

In order to complete this Unit successfully, you will be required to achieve a satisfactory level of performance in all three Outcomes.