



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Recording Techniques for Musicians 2

Unit code: H1LX 35

Superclass: KG

Publication date: June 2012

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Unit purpose

The Unit is designed to enable candidates to undertake and understand practical multi-track recording and mix down within a digital multi-track recording studio environment. This Unit is intended to extend the knowledge and skills of *Recording Techniques for Musicians 1*.

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

- 1 Demonstrate an understanding of digital multi-track recording techniques.
- 2 Produce a multi-track recording using digital technology.
- 3 Produce a stereo mix down from a multi-track recording on a digital system.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

The Unit focuses on recording techniques for musicians. Therefore, candidates are expected to be able to make creative musical decisions. These skills may be demonstrated by the achievement of Music Units at SCQF level 7. Candidates are also expected to have some understanding of recording techniques which could be evidenced by the achievement of the Unit *Recording Techniques for Musicians 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

This is an optional Unit within the HNC/D Music framework. It is recommended that this Unit should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Recording Techniques for Musicians 2

Unit code: H1LX 35

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 an understanding of digital multi-track recording techniques.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Digital multi-track equipment
- ◆ Basic digital audio concepts

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can recognise and operate selected digital multi-track and mixing devices effectively. The following must be demonstrated:

- ◆ Configuring selected equipment for recording and mix down
 - range of inputs, outputs and bus systems
 - hardware (outboard) and/or software (onboard) effects and processors
- ◆ Basic digital audio concepts
 - selecting sample rates
 - configuring input/output devices
 - digital editing
 - digital audio workstation mix environment

Performance evidence is required for this Outcome. This is a practical activity undertaken in open-book conditions. As such, candidates are permitted to refer to learning materials such as hand-outs, training videos and/or their own notes. Assessors should observe candidates in the recording environment and record candidate performance on an assessor's observation checklist.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Recording Techniques for Musicians 2

Outcome 2

Produce a multi-track recording using digital technology.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Select appropriate equipment for a multi-track recording
- ◆ Microphone selection and placement
- ◆ Input monitoring and gain structure
- ◆ Overdubbing
- ◆ Digital editing (copy, cut, paste, trim, duplicate)
- ◆ Track labelling and file management

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ Produce a multi-track recording of a minimum of six audio tracks, incorporating as a minimum recorded audio, imported audio and MIDI.
 - select appropriate microphones and placement techniques for the source signals
 - effectively record sources with appropriate signal levels
 - overdub tracks effectively
 - edit tracks appropriately
 - effectively store recorded data
 - create and maintain accurate documentation

Performance evidence as well as written and/or oral evidence is required for this Outcome. This is a practical activity and should be undertaken in open-book conditions. Assessors should record candidate performance on an assessor's observation checklist. The total audio track count should be no less than six.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Recording Techniques for Musicians 2

Outcome 3

Produce a stereo mix down from a multi-track recording on a digital system.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Balance recorded tracks for musical effect
- ◆ Creative use of effects and processes
- ◆ Automation
- ◆ Mix down formats

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ apply appropriate signal processing
- ◆ demonstrate an understanding of stereo image within a mix down session
- ◆ produce a well-balanced mix down, including automation
- ◆ select an appropriate mix down format

Performance and product evidence is required for this Outcome. Candidates will be observed producing a mix down to a professional audio format from a multi-track recording. This is a practical activity and will be undertaken in open-book conditions. Assessors should record candidate performance on an assessor's observation checklist and candidates will be required to submit their stereo mix and session data.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Recording Techniques for Musicians 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

The Unit has been developed as an optional Unit in the HND Music Group Award. The Unit is designed to equip candidates with the skills and knowledge required to undertake digital multi-track recording and mix down sessions effectively. It will provide the candidate with underpinning theory required to undertake the practical tasks required for this Unit.

This Unit demands that candidates have an understanding of digital recording and multi-tracking system. These skills can contribute to the generation of evidence for other Units from the framework such as: *Music First Study 2: Composition, Songwriting 2* and *Music: Graded Unit 2*.

Guidance on the delivery of this Unit

This Unit is primarily designed to provide candidates with the skills required to operate digital recording systems to record music. It is expected that candidates will have the opportunity to explore the creative use of software and hardware throughout the delivery of this Unit

Candidates will be observed participating in a multi-track recording and a mix down session.

Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

The Unit can be assessed using a single holistic assessment or separate assessments for each Outcome. Where required evidence is not available through practical activities written or oral evidence may be generated to supplement the observation checklists.

The Unit should be assessed in an appropriate digital recording environment.

Assessment Guidelines

Assessment could be integrated as a whole for a combination of Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.

Outcomes 1 and 2

It is anticipated that Outcomes 1 and 2 will be combined and should be assessed using an assessor's observation checklist plus the submission of appropriate documentation which should identify: studio layout, equipment used and take sheets.

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: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Recording Techniques for Musicians 2

Outcome 3

Outcome 3 should be assessed by the submission of a stereo mix to a professional audio standard, eg WAV file, plus the session data. It is recognised that centres will use different technologies, but assessors should ensure that the candidates meet the standards set out in the 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.

Online and Distance Learning

This Unit is not suited to delivery by online and distance learning because it requires candidates to be observed by an assessor to ensure that equipment is operated safely and the work is that of the candidates.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Aspects of the Core Skill of *Working with Others* could be developed in this Unit during Outcome 2. *Working with Others* involves the ability to work with others to plan, agree, and take responsibility for tasks; to support co-operative working in appropriate ways; and to review the effectiveness of one's own contribution. This would fit with a group task to carry out a recording suitable for Outcome 2. The general skill at SCQF level 6 is 'Work with others in a group to analyse, plan, and complete a complex activity'. A group could carry out the task for Outcome 2, as it is a complex activity.

Candidates can be encouraged to analyse the task and negotiate goals, roles, and responsibilities, anticipating and responding to needs of others, supporting co-operative working, and evaluating and drawing conclusions about the effectiveness of one's own contribution.

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 |
|---------|-----------------------|------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2012

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Business Development and Customer Support team, telephone 0303 333 0330.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Recording Techniques for Musicians 2

It is anticipated that you will already have some background knowledge of basic recording techniques.

On completion of this Unit you should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate an understanding of digital multi-track recording techniques.
- 2 Produce a multi-track recording using digital technology.
- 3 Produce a stereo mix down from a multi-track recording on a digital system.

You will be required to set up and operate a digital recording system to produce a multi-track recording. Once recorded, you will complete a mix down. You will learn about digital recording systems, formats, input/output devices, multi-tracking, digital editing and mixing. The purpose of the Unit is to give you the skills to record your own music. This will assist you in communicating with other musicians and recording engineers.

You will be assessed on your ability to produce a multi-track recording and to complete your own mix down.