

Unit 205ta

Composing Music

Issue Date:	29/01/2019	Final Submission Date:	21/06/2019
Tutor/Assessor Names:	A.Flowers/ N.Popplewell	Time to Complete:	6 months
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Stretch & Challenge: As a student at RSL the expectation is that we work together to help you reach your potential. In order to achieve this the calibre of work you submit should accurately reflect your capability. All students should be striving to challenge themselves by attaining the highest grades possible.

Submission Information: Written submissions should be uploaded to the RSL Moodle. Any work not uploaded to Moodle will not be marked and will result in an ungraded mark for that piece of work. If you are unable to access Word Processing or online submission portals it is your responsibility to make this known to your tutor.

Submission Deadlines: Any work submitted after the agreed deadline will be capped at a **Pass grade**. The only times when this will not be the case is if 'extenuating circumstances' have been agreed with your tutor prior to the deadline having passed. Where applicable, evidence will be required to award extenuating circumstances.

Resubmissions: If you are required to resubmit work you will be given one week to complete and resubmit the work following the publishing of results.

Plagiarism: RSL's definition of plagiarism is; *"Taking another person's work or source and using it as your own without reference or citation."*

Plagiarism is an offence and disciplinary action can be taken which can result in your grades being capped, removed, or in extreme cases can result in your removal from your study program.

What counts as plagiarism is covered in your lessons but if you are ever unsure you should check with your tutor **before** you submit.

Tutor Contact: - nipoppl@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk OR

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Monk's Walk School (17343)

Level 2 Certificate in Performance/Technology & Composition for Music Practitioners 2018-2020

Unit: 205ta Composing Music (8 Credits, Both Performance and Composition)

Word Processing: RSL requests that all written submission be typed (word processed) and that it abides by the following guidelines;

- All typed work should be in a **Readable** and **Professional** Font
- The Font size for **Titles** should be **size 12** and **Main Body** font should be **size 10**.
- All work should have a **Title** and **Student Name** in the header of the document.
- Ensure that all references and citations are included when referring other people's work. **All** written work **must have** the following written clearly at the **top of each page**;
- Student full name
- Unit code and title
- Assessment criteria

Recommended Evidence:

Task 1 (1.1) - Audio recording (mp3, Pro Tools Project file, CD); recorded performance and written report

Task 2 (1.2) – Annotated, graphic representation of your composition

Task 3 (1.3) - An evaluative report on your composition and skills

Upload Information: All work for this assignment should be saved on the student drive in your area and sent via email to your teacher prior to the deadline. If for any reason you are having issues uploading any work please contact one of your tutors using the details below to arrange a way of submitting your work.

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Unit Aim: This unit aims to facilitate an awareness of compositional techniques in a specific musical style. Whilst studying this unit you will be creating music which demonstrates your understanding of the chosen style and using the techniques that are relevant to that style of music.

Vocational Context:

The Music department has asked you to submit a composition for a Monk's Walk School Music Department album to promote the school for open evening. You are to choose a specific music genre suitable for parents and pupils and compose a pastiche in this chosen style (agreed to with your tutor). For the album notes, you must include a graphic representation of your composition, a description of your compositional process and an evaluation.

Tasks:

Task 1: Skills, Goals and Genre Analysis

You are required you to compose a song that demonstrates aspects of a defined musical style. This means the sounds, textures, structures, rhythms and melodies you use should reflect the genre/style you are writing for. Your composition will include **at least three** of the following:

A. Rhythm track B. Bass line C. Chord progression D. Melody E. Lyrics

Vocational Context: As a working composer you will often be working to briefs from production companies that ask your music to sound a certain way – often in a certain genre or in the style of a suggested band or artist. This task allows you to understand your abilities, and improve your understanding of how to compose in a certain style of music.

Initial Considerations

1a. Create a SWOT analysis for your current skill set. You should include Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities to improve, and potential Threats to your development.



1.b Set your personal goals - what do you want to achieve out of the composition? E.g. this could include understanding the style of music chosen, or working on any specific compositional skills.

Analyse existing repertoire in that style

1c. Find and list three suitable tracks that represent the genre you have chosen to compose in.

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1d. Complete a simple musical analysis where you describe the music. You should also use internet research to learn about the genre. You should talk about the genre's typical:

- Rhythm track
- Bass line
- Harmonic progression
- Melody
- Lyrics

1e. It will help you to first sketch out a visual representation of your composition and write a simple plan so what your composition will sound like.

Submission Format:

Written document and exported audio file.

Word count :750 words

Total audio count: One finished composition lasting between 2.5 – 5 minutes in length

Recordings will be made using GarageBand or another DAW of your choice. You will create an audio mix of your project that demonstrates the evidence required for this unit. This task will make use of all the skills that you have developed throughout your Recording Skills and Composition lessons.

Grading Criterion 1.1

Task 2: Graphic Representation

You will produce a graphic representation of your music composition that evidences the different techniques you have used in its creation. This needs to be detailed, structured and be professionally presented. This could include your various work throughout the unit; lyric sheets, chord charts, scores, screen prints of your sequencing project etc.

Vocational Context: As a working composer one of the simplest ways to copyright your work is to send an audio recording and accompanying written or graphic representation of your work to you in a self-addressed envelope (with a 'signed for' recorded delivery sticker over the opening of the envelope that shows the date that you wrote your work). This way you have proof that you own the copyright to your song.

- 2a. Once you have composed and finished your composition you must either:
- a. print a score if written in a notation program such as Sibelius;
 - b. print and annotate screenshots of your composition if using Reason, GarageBand etc; or
 - c. write out a chord chart with lyrics if you have recorded your song using band/classroom instruments.

Grading Criterion 1.2

Submission Format:

A printed score, annotated screenshots or chord chart with lyrics.

Word count: 250 words

Task 3: Evaluation

You must describe the success of your composition defining your own strengths and areas for development as a composer. Your evaluation must include insight into your progress, targets set to develop your skill and a discussion with your tutor about your composition and areas for future development.

Vocational Context: As a working composer you won't always win the pitches you write music for. You must always evaluate your work and your own skills so that you are always improving and always growing as a musician. The rejections that you may receive are important opportunities to develop your skill set.

3a. Evaluate your composition in relation to your research and musical analysis of the genre (why is it representative of the style? Compare the musical elements you have used, such as bass line, rhythm, lyrics etc.)

3b. Evaluate how you have developed as a composer. (Have you achieved your goals? If so, how and why? If you haven't, see below:).

3c. Evaluate areas for development that you need to continue to work on. Suggest ways that you can now further develop these skills.

Grading Criterion 2.1

Submission Format:

A written document.

Word count: 800 words

How to Achieve a Distinction

Task 1 Demonstrate the ability to compose a strong song or instrumental piece, clearly and accurately reflecting the defined musical style, but with a degree of original thought and interpretation. At least three of the following are present and consistently successfully executed, appropriate to the defined musical style: rhythm track, bass line, chord progression, melody, lyrics.

Task 2 Evidence selection and application of a range of techniques to define the structural and instrumental arrangement of the music appropriately, through the presentation of a detailed, well-structured graphic representation of it.

Task 3 Provide a highly detailed and insightful description of the success of the composition. The definition of your own strengths and areas for development as composers will show clarity of thought, insight and strategies for further improvement.

How to Achieve a Merit

Task 1 Demonstrate the ability to compose a strong song or instrumental piece, clearly in a defined musical style. At least three of the following are present and successfully executed, appropriate to the defined musical style: rhythm track, bass line, chord progression, melody, lyrics.

Task 2 Evidence a range of techniques to define the structural and instrumental arrangement of the music appropriately, through the presentation of a detailed, graphic representation of it.

Task 3 Provide a detailed description of the success of the composition. The definition of your own strengths and areas for development as composers will show clarity of thought and evidence of thinking towards strategies for further improvement.

How to Achieve a Pass

Task 1 Demonstrate the ability to work alone to compose a song or instrumental piece in a defined musical style. At least three of the following are present and are used mostly successfully in relation to the defined musical style: rhythm track, bass line, chord progression, melody, lyrics.

Task 2 Demonstrate the ability to define the structural and instrumental arrangement of the music appropriately, through the presentation of a basic, graphic representation of it.

Task 3 Describe the success of your composition, defining your own strengths and areas for development as musical arrangers.