

PERFORMING MUSICIAN



ACCESS TO MUSIC / ROCKSCHOOL PERFORMING MUSICIAN COURSES

INTRODUCTION

Our Performing Musician courses are the ideal way to gain the broad range of skills needed to operate as an artist in the music industry.

The courses are designed for musicians who want to write, record and perform music in bands and/or as singer/songwriters.

These courses generate many transferable skills which can be used in all walks of life. They are linked to government-approved and funded qualifications which have parity with GCSEs and A Levels.

SKILLS GENERATED

You will gain skills in:

- rehearsing and band communication;
- songwriting/composing;
- instrumental technique in either guitar, bass, drums, vocals or keyboard;
- stagecraft/performance including recorded performance;
- basic recording and live sound;
- musicianship;
- contextual awareness;
- business and marketing.

Quite simply, the best course for musicians wanting to write, record and perform their own music.

DELIVERY

- Delivery is centred around small-group musical development and instrumental skills sessions conducted in fully-equipped band rehearsal rooms.
- There are opportunities to work in recording studios and at music venues.
- Whole group sessions provide valuable contextual and business input.
- Tutors are all experienced musicians with considerable knowledge of music and the industry. Some have worked with major artists, or have been in successful bands. See individual Centre entries for more info.
- Centres have band rehearsal rooms equipped with good-quality PAs, drum kits and backline as well as recording studios. You will be expected to bring in your own instrument (guitar etc.) or drum sticks and cymbals.

COURSES & QUALIFICATIONS

- Most courses are full-time one-year programmes. However, the Level 3 course span two years in line with A Levels and BTEC National Diplomas.
- Some centres may offer part-time courses. Please see the Centres section of the website for more details.
- Full-time courses are accredited by a Rockscool Diploma for Music Practitioners qualification at either Level 1, 2 or 3. This is a bespoke



All qualifications are approved by QCA (Qualifications & Curriculum Authority).

- qualification written by Access to Music.
- Part time courses may be accredited with a Rockschool Award or Certificate for Music Practitioners.
- The qualifications have been designed for musicians by musicians. They have been carefully structured to assess relevant musical skills in relation to being a performing musician. They are subjected to regular review to ensure their relevance to a rapidly changing industry.
- Rockschool and Access to Music have over 25 years combined experience of popular education and are the UK's leading team in developing exciting music qualifications that are fit for purpose.
- All qualifications are QCA approved and LSC fundable and have direct parity with GCSEs, A Levels and BTECs, to which they provide an attractive alternative.



PRIOR SKILLS & APPLICATION

You should already have some skills in playing an instrument and in performing music. Your level of skills and experience will determine at which stage you enter the course:

LEVEL 1

This is for beginners with few instrumental and performance skills. It is at Level 1 standard (GCSE grades D-E).

LEVEL 2

This is for intermediate musicians with some instrumental and performance skills. It is at Level 2 standard (GCSE grades A-C).

LEVEL 3

This is for more experienced musicians with a wider range of instrumental and performance skills. It is at Level 3 standard (A Level).

There are no formal academic requirements to access our courses (e.g. a certain number of GCSEs etc.). Anybody with the right level of musical skills and the desire and motivation to develop can apply.

You must be over 16 to apply.

The best way to apply for a course is by completing the online application form on the Access to Music website.

You will then be invited to an audition/interview at your specified centre. You should prepare a short performance on your instrument of two contrasting songs (parts of the songs will be sufficient). This can be done to a recorded backing. You will also be expected to talk about your skills and musical experience. Feel free to bring any other recordings or DVDs with you.

*All courses can be accessed with no previous qualifications.
All you need is commitment and motivation to be a musician.*

All Single Diplomas generate 48 ten-hour credits

COURSE DETAILS

PERFORMING MUSICIAN LEVEL 1

- A beginner-level course for aspiring musicians who want to develop the skills required to become a performing musician.
- It is usually run as a full-time, one-year course over 35 weeks. Please check Centres for places where this course is running.
- It is accredited by a Rockschool Diploma for Music Practitioners at Level 1. This is approximately equivalent to four GCSEs grades D-E.
- The qualification **generates 48 credits** based on the standard ten-hour credit. These credits are gained by completing eight units. There are no final examinations.
- Typical unit options include:
 - *Live Music Performance (Core unit);*
 - *Musicianship (Core unit);*
 - *Bass Guitar Skills;*
 - *Drum Kit Skills;*
 - *Guitar Skills;*
 - *Keyboard Skills;*
 - *Vocal Skills;*
 - *Composing Music (Ideas);*
 - *Arranging Music (Parts);*
 - *Live Sound Recording;*
 - *Sound Reinforcement;*
 - *Understanding the Music Industry;*
 - *Music Event Organisation;*
 - *Music Promotion.*
- Unit work and the overall qualification is graded Unclassified, Pass, Merit, Distinction.
- Progression is to the Performing Musician Stage 2 or to other GCSEs.

To complete a Diploma you have to successfully complete the core unit plus seven other units. Please note that the units covered may vary from centre to centre. You may take more than eight units, but a charge will be made for additional units.

PERFORMING MUSICIAN LEVEL 2

- An intermediate-level course for aspiring musicians who want to further develop the skills required to become a performing musician.
- It is usually run as a full-time, one-year course over 35 weeks. Please check Centres for places where this course is running.
- It is accredited by a Rockschool Diploma for Music Practitioners at Level 2. This is approximately equivalent to four GCSEs grades A-C.
- The qualification **generates 48 credits** based on the standard ten-hour credit. These credits are gained by completing eight units. There are no final examinations.
- Typical unit options include:
 - *Live Music Performance (Core unit);*
 - *Music Rehearsal Skills (Core unit);*
 - *Bass Guitar Skills;*
 - *Drum Kit Skills;*
 - *Guitar Skills;*
 - *Keyboard Skills;*
 - *Vocal Skills;*
 - *Musicianship;*
 - *Contextualising Music;*
 - *Composing Music (Repertoire);*
 - *Arranging Music (Styles);*
 - *Live Sound Recording;*
 - *Sound Reinforcement;*
 - *Music Event Organisation;*
 - *Music Promotion;*
 - *Music Promotion (Internet).*
- Unit work and the overall qualification is graded Unclassified, Pass, Merit, Distinction.
- Progression is to the Performing Musician Stage 3 or to other GCSEs and A Levels.

The Level 3 Combined Diploma generates 96 ten-hour credits

PERFORMING MUSICIAN LEVEL 3

- An advanced-level course for aspiring musicians who want to refine and develop the skills required to become a performing musician.
- It is usually run as a full-time, two-year course over 70 weeks. However, there are flexible options for students looking for a gap-year vocational course. Please check Centres for places where this course is running.
- It is accredited by a Rockschool Combined Diploma for Music Practitioners which consists of two Level 3 Diplomas. This is approximately equivalent to almost three A Levels.
- The first year is a foundation year covering general music skills at Level 3, while the second year covers more specialist/applied skills in preparation for employment, or further training.
- The Combined Diploma **generates 96 credits** based on the standard ten-hour credit. These credits are gained by completing sixteen units. There are no final examinations.
- Typical unit options include:
 - *Live Music Performance (Core unit);*
 - *Music Stagecraft (Core unit);*
 - *Music Rehearsal Skills (Core unit);*
 - *Working as a Freelance Music Practitioner (Core unit)*
 - *Bass Guitar Skills;*
 - *Drum Kit Skills;*
 - *Guitar Skills;*
 - *Keyboard Skills;*
 - *Vocal Skills;*
 - *Musicianship;*
 - *Contextualising Music;*
 - *Music Research & Presentation Skills*
 - *Composing Music (Styles);*
 - *Composing Music (Repertoire);*
 - *Composing Lyrics;*
 - *Arranging Music (Styles);*
 - *Arranging Music (Recording);*
 - *Recorded Music Performance;*
 - *Live Sound Recording;*
 - *Studio Music Sessioning;*
 - *Live Music Sessioning;*
 - *Developing Music Teaching Skills;*
 - *Delivering Music Workshops;*
 - *Music Event Organisation;*
 - *Music Marketing (Research);*
 - *Music Promotion;*
 - *Music Promotion (Internet);*
 - *Music Promotion (Video);*
 - *Setting Up a Music Business.*
- Unit work and the overall qualification is graded Unclassified, Pass, Merit, Distinction.
- Progression is to Higher Education popular music courses (e.g. ATM's Artist Development Programme and foundation degrees, or other university degrees) and potentially into related employment within the music industry.



KEY SKILLS

The government requires that all students should develop their key skills while studying. At Access to Music you will usually be expected to improve your skills in three areas:

- communication (writing and speaking);
- application of number (maths);
- information technology (using computers and the internet).

At our own centres, you will work on these areas in music-related projects leading to the production of a portfolio and the completion of online tests. These lead to recognised Key Skills qualifications.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Depending on qualification and unit choices, the Performing Musician courses will give you all, or some, of the skills needed to work in the following roles in the music industry:

- band musician;
- solo singer/songwriter;
- songwriter/composer;
- session musician;
- covers band/tribute artist;
- event organiser;
- music promoter;
- music marketing co-ordinator;
- artist manager;
- internet-based music entrepreneur.

The course also generates many transferable skills which can be used in all sorts of other careers such as:

- team working/working with others;
- performing;
- public speaking;
- personal confidence;

- business and marketing skills;
- using computers and the internet;
- communication including writing;
- number skills.

FURTHER STUDY

If you successfully complete the Level 3 Combined Diploma then you can progress to further study at Higher Education.

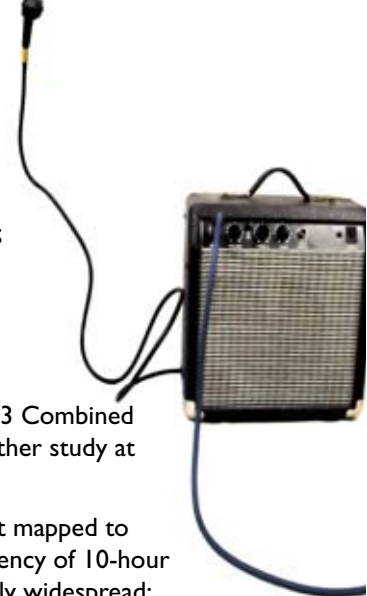
Our Level 3 Combined Diploma is not mapped to UCAS points. Instead we use the currency of 10-hour credits which are becoming increasingly widespread:

- The Combined Diploma generates 96 credits;
- an A Level generates approximately 36 credits;
- our Diplomas are thus the equivalent of 2.66 A Levels;
- this is sufficient to gain access to most Higher Education popular music degrees. However, you are free to take two further units to give you the same number of credits as three A Levels (108).

Access to Music has three Higher Education courses which you can progress to. Information on these can be found on the website.

You may also progress onto other foundation degrees and degrees. The most suitable are courses in popular music, music performance and commercial music such as those offered by institutions such as Barnsley College, Bath Spa University, Bournemouth University, City University London, Kingston University, University of Leeds, Leeds College of Music, Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts, Oxford Brookes University, University of Salford, Thames Valley University, Westminster University and University of Wolverhampton. A full list can be found on the ATM website under STUDENTS.

'One of the best training providers in the country'
Adult Learning Inspectorate.





access to music

PRACTICALITIES

DELIVERY

Full-time courses are delivered during the day (usually between 09.00 and 17.00) over three or four days per week.

Students can usually rely on having at least one weekday free for part-time employment.

FEEES

Most specialist music education is expensive. However, Access to Music is committed to offering quality industry-focused music training at a price which is affordable to everyone.

Access to Music Performing Musician courses are government-funded and can be taken free of any tuition charge, or at a subsidised rate. Add-on costs are also very low and we don't have any of the hidden costs that some of our competitors charge.

Simply, they are the most cost-effective way of gaining the skills needed to develop your music making.

Please check out the fees information on our website to find out exactly what you may have to pay.

ENROLMENT & YOUR COMMITMENT

When you accept a place on a course, you will be sent an enrolment form which you must complete and return. By accepting a place on a course you are making a commitment to regularly attend that course and to complete the necessary work assignments. We are looking for musicians who are motivated and serious about making music their career.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Access to Music has a student support department which can help you with aspects such as childcare, travel, housing advice etc. See website for more detail.



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Leading learning and skills



Phone **FREephone 0800 28 18 42** if you require more information. Apply online at **www.accesstomusic.co.uk**