

## SESSION MUSICIAN COURSE @ LEVEL 3

The Session Musician course is all about developing the skills to sing or play your chosen instrument at the highest level.

This course is not so much about being a creative artist. Rather it is about having the skills to interpret and play the music of others.

### CREATING THE MUSICIAN

The essence of the course is developing yourself as a musician. This means intensive instrumental study combined with a solid grounding in all aspects of musicianship.

To help create this musician you will take part in development sessions and workshops in instrumental skills, musicianship and music theory, music context plus arranging and rehearsal and performance techniques.

You will be expected to achieve Rockschool Grade 6 by the end of the first year and Rockschool Grade 8 by the end of the second year.

### PROMOTING THE MUSICIAN

Most musicians are self-employed and need to know how to market and promote themselves, especially in today's fast changing music industry.

So you will gain important skills in understanding how to promote yourself effectively using such tools as websites, video, social networking and viral marketing.

### PLAYING AND RECORDING

Live and studio sessioning is the end result of all your hard work. Access

to Music has many artists whom you can work for, both live and in the studio.

Access to Music also works with Atom Live, an event production company, to provide you with local, regional and national gig opportunities. Your tutors in your centre will also help you to get gigs.

### NEXT MOVES

This is a two-year Level 3 course. From here you can either go into the industry or to higher education. The ideal progression route is to our Popular Music Practice (Session Musician) Foundation Degree at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. You could also go into teaching via our Music Educator course.

## MORE ABOUT YOUR COURSE.

### LEVELS AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Session Musician course is a Further Education course. It is offered at Level 3 which is the same as A Level.

Level 3 courses last for two years.

The qualification is a Music Practitioner Combined Diploma. This is a bespoke music qualification which is written by Access to Music and is accredited by Rockschool, the UK's only popular music awarding body.

The qualification is government-funded

and industry and university recognised.

Assessment is based on course work (units) rather than exams and the qualifications are graded Pass, Merit and Distinction.

You gain credits for each unit that you achieve. The Level 3 Combined Diploma generates 96 ten-hour credits.

You will also work towards a Functional Skills qualification.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At Access to Music we believe that people should have the opportunity to benefit from our courses whether they have achieved previous qualifications or not.

So we have no formal entry requirements for our courses. The most important thing is your music and your motivation and drive to succeed.

Please note that some of our partner centres do apply entry requirements. Please check with the college for more information on this.

# MORE ABOUT YOUR COURSE.

## FINDING YOUR LEVEL

In terms of choosing which Level of course is right for you, it can be roughly broken down into the following:

### LEVEL 1

This is for musicians and artists who are still beginners with little or no experience of performance and recording work.

### LEVEL 2

This is for musicians and artists who have limited experience of performance and/or recording work.

### LEVEL 3

This is for musicians and artists who have more extensive experience of performance and/or recording work.

## PRACTICALITIES

All courses start in September and each academic year runs until late June or early July.

The courses are classed as full-time. However, attendance at actual college sessions is around 16 hours per week.

This is usually spread over three or four days. This means that you will have spare time for part-time employment to support your studies. However, be aware that you will be expected to undertake course work outside of your college hours.

Access to Music, or your partner college, has a range of student support services which can help you

through your studies. This includes advice and guidance on getting things like Educational Maintenance Allowance, Adult Learning Grant, travel and childcare support and hardship funds.

Again the website has more info on this under STUDENTS.

## CENTRES

The Session Musician course is offered at ?? centres. Check the website for up-to-date information of where this course is run.

## MORE ABOUT YOUR COURSE.

### VISIT US

To really get a flavour of a course why not book yourself into one of our centres for our National Open Days? They take place on Saturdays on 14 November 2009, 6 February 2010 and 15 May 2010.

### EQUIPMENT

You will be expected to own your main instrument and bring this into your music centre on all the days you need to attend.

Of course drums are bit awkward to carry on the bus, so we provide drum kits, but drummers must bring their own cymbals, pedals and sticks.

Vocalists are expected to own their own microphone and bring this with them.

We recommend that you insure your musical equipment to cover for any damage or loss incurred through using it during the course. Access to Music Ltd. cannot be held responsible for any damage or theft of personal property.

We supply band-rehearsal rooms equipped with backline amps, drum kits and PA systems.

### COSTS

Access to Music further education courses are government-funded and can be taken free of any tuition charge, or

at a subsidised rate.

You will get free tuition if you are aged 16-18, are on benefits, or are taking a first Level 3 qualification.

Even if you are working, costs are very reasonable in comparison to other music providers.

Add-on costs are also very low and we don't have any of the hidden costs that some of our competitors charge.

The above fee structure does not apply to international students outside the EU. You will have to pay for full tuition costs.

Please check our website for up-to-date info on fees & costs.

# MORE ABOUT YOUR COURSE.

## APPLYING

To give you the best chance of getting on a course, make sure you apply to us as early as possible.

The best way to apply to us is online where there is an easy-to-use application form. You can also apply by downloading and printing off an application form.

You will be encouraged to supply examples of your music/creative works to date. You can upload these with the online application form and/or supply links to a webpage (e.g. Myspace) or website.

## INTERVIEWS

Most applicants will be invited to the centre of their choice for an interview with centre staff. This should happen

within four weeks of us receiving your application.

This session is designed so that you can find out more about your chosen course and centre and that we can find out more about you.

You will be expected to provide a performance/demonstration to include one or more of the following:

- a performance on an instrument (perhaps to backing track);
- a demonstration of your music on a computer workstation (we have Reason, Logic & Garageband available. Please bring your own laptop if you use different software);
- a presentation of music you have recorded (e.g. an MP3 file or link to music on a web page);
- a video (e.g. a gig, club

night, promo etc.);

- a presentation of your music web site or web page (e.g. Myspace).

You may want to compile a portfolio of some or all of the above, either as a computer-based, or paper-based, presentation.

## ENROLMENT

You will be informed of whether you have been accepted shortly after your interview.

If successful, you will receive an enrolment form which you should fill in and send back to us together with any payment required.

All courses start around the third week in September 2010. You must send us your enrolment form and all payments before that date.

# OUTCOMES

## INTO THE INDUSTRY

This is an artist-based course so the main outcome is to enter the music industry as a performing and recording musician.

This might be as a session player, an original artist or as a tribute or cabaret act.

In order to be successful in this aim it will be essential that you have exploited all the opportunities Access to Music can give you to develop yourself as an artist and to market and promote your music.

Of course many artists go on to work in other areas of the music or creative industries and we will give you opportunities to find out about how different areas of the industry operate.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

Some students will be interested in using Access to Music as a pathway to higher education.

Because we have no academic entry requirements our Level 3 courses can offer an excellent access route to HE for those who have no previous qualifications.

Access to Music has two foundation degrees and a Level 4 Artist Development programme which provide ideal progression from Level 3.

The ideal progression route is to the Popular Music Practice (Session Musician) Foundation Degree delivered by Access to Music at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

You can find more information of this course under Music Performance courses on the website.

There are numerous other foundation degrees and degrees in popular music. For more info of some of the ones on offer, please go to 'Music @ HE' under STUDENTS on the website..

## TEACHING

Teaching music is a great way to pass on your skills to others and earn income.

Access to Music offers a one-year Music Educator teacher training course @ Level 3 which can gain you the skills to work as a private tutor or in colleges.

[www.accesstomusic.co.uk](http://www.accesstomusic.co.uk)

The one-stop site for more information and applying for courses.  
More advice: [info@accesstomusic.co.uk](mailto:info@accesstomusic.co.uk) / Freephone 0800 28 18 42

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