



Accredited Africa Training Institute for Capacity Development

Unit FO409, Hatfield Plaza · 1122 Burnett St, Hatfield 0028 · Pretoria, Gauteng · South Africa

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COURSE BROCHURE

Staff Notation in South African Music

Culture and Arts / Music

Unit Standard 253134 · NQF Level 5 · 12 Credits · 9 Days

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course equips learners with the foundational skills to read, interpret, and apply staff notation within the context of South African music. By exploring local genres such as mbaqanga, maskandi, and gospel, participants will develop practical musicianship and the ability to notate and perform music accurately. The course bridges theoretical knowledge with cultural relevance, enhancing both personal creativity and professional competence.

Category	Culture and Arts
Subfield	Music
Unit Standard	253134
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 5 · 12 Credits
Duration	9 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS – verifiable online

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate the ability to read and write staff notation using standard musical symbols, clefs, and time signatures.
- Apply staff notation to transcribe simple South African melodies from aural sources.
- Analyse rhythmic and melodic patterns in South African music and represent them accurately in staff notation.
- Evaluate the role of staff notation in preserving and disseminating South African musical heritage.
- Design a short musical piece or arrangement incorporating elements of South African music using staff notation.
- Implement staff notation in a practical performance or teaching context, demonstrating fluency and accuracy.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Musicians, music educators, choir conductors, and aspiring composers who wish to integrate staff notation with South African musical traditions.
- It is ideal for individuals seeking to formalise their musical training or improve their teaching methods.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1: Introduction to Staff Notation and Music Theory Fundamentals

- Overview of staff notation and its importance in South African music.
- The staff: lines and spaces.
- Treble clef (G clef) and bass clef (F clef).
- Note names (A-G) and ledger lines.
- Note values: whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth notes.
- Rests and their durations.
- Time signatures: 4/4, 3/4, 2/4.
- Simple exercises in reading and clapping rhythms.

Day 2: Pitch, Scales, and Key Signatures

- Accidentals: sharp, flat, natural.
- Enharmonic equivalents.
- Major scale pattern: W-W-H-W-W-H.
- Key signatures up to 4 sharps and 4 flats.
- Circle of fifths introduction.
- Writing scales in treble and bass clefs.
- Melodic dictation exercises.
- Practical: notate a short melody in C major.

Day 3: Intervals and Chords

- Interval types and qualities.
- Interval inversion.
- Triad construction: root, third, fifth.
- Chord symbols and Roman numerals.
- Primary chords (I, IV, V) in major keys.
- Chord inversions: root position, first inversion, second inversion.
- Ear training for intervals.
- Practical: write chord progressions in staff notation.

Day 4: Rhythm and Meter in Depth

- Compound time signatures.
- Dotted notes and rests.
- Ties and slurs.
- Syncopation and off-beat accents.
- Simple polyrhythms (3 against 2).
- South African rhythmic patterns (e.g., mbaqanga, marabi).
- Clapping and counting exercises.
- Practical: notate a rhythmic phrase from a local song.

Day 5: Minor Scales and Modes

- Natural minor scale pattern.
- Harmonic minor: raised 7th.
- Melodic minor: ascending and descending.
- Key signatures of minor keys.
- Relative major/minor relationships.

- Modes: Ionian, Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian, Locrian.
- Modal music in South African context.
- Practical: write a melody in A harmonic minor.

Day 6: Advanced Harmony and Chord Progressions

- Seventh chord types.
- Chord function and cadences (authentic, plagal, half, deceptive).
- Common progressions: I-IV-V-I, ii-V-I.
- Secondary dominants.
- Harmonisation techniques.
- Analysis of South African song chord progressions.
- Practical: harmonise a folk melody in staff notation.

Day 7: Notation Software and Score Preparation

- Introduction to MuseScore or similar.
- Note entry methods.
- Adding articulations, dynamics, and tempo markings.
- Layout and formatting.
- Part extraction.
- MIDI playback and editing.
- Practical: transcribe a short piece from audio into notation software.

Day 8: Transcribing South African Music

- Transcription techniques: listening, slowing down, chunking.
- Identifying form (verse, chorus, bridge).
- Notating vocal ornaments.
- Dealing with pitch bends and slides.
- Lead sheet format: melody, chords, lyrics.
- Case studies: transcribing maskandi, kwela, gospel.
- Practical: transcribe a traditional South African song.

Day 9: Integration and Final Project

- Composition techniques: motif development, phrasing.
- Score preparation for ensemble.
- Dynamic and expressive markings.
- Rehearsal markings.
- Peer feedback session.
- Presentation of final projects.
- Discussion: staff notation and oral tradition in SA.
- Course wrap-up and assessment.

ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION

Delegates are assessed through exercises and a final test. A mark of **50% or above** earns an **AATICD Certificate of Completion**, issued digitally with a unique verification code. This course carries **12 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 5**.

PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 35,000.00	R 35,000.00
1	In-House	R 45,500.00	R 45,500.00
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 52,500.00	R 52,500.00

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Start	End	Method	Venue
10 Aug 2026	20 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
10 Aug 2026	20 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Mauritius
11 Aug 2026	21 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Cape Town, South Africa
12 Aug 2026	24 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE
13 Aug 2026	25 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
14 Aug 2026	26 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Abu Dhabi, UAE
17 Aug 2026	27 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Shenzhen, China
18 Aug 2026	28 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE

Contact us if no suitable date is listed – on-demand sessions can be arranged for groups.

HOW TO GET A QUOTE OR APPLY

- 1. Get an instant quotation online:** visit www.aaticd.co.za, open the page for this course (Unit Standard 253134) and click **Get A Quote / Apply**. Select your training method and number of delegates – your quotation is generated immediately and emailed to you with the course brochure attached.
- 2. Apply by email:** send the course title, your preferred training method (Online, In-House or On-Campus Pretoria), the number of delegates and your preferred dates to apply@aaticd.co.za – our team will reply with a formal quotation.
- 3. Apply by phone or WhatsApp:** call +27 12 004 8389 or WhatsApp +27 65 077 6310 and we will prepare your quotation and reserve your seats.
- 4. Confirm your booking:** accept the quotation and settle the invoice. As soon as payment is confirmed your delegates are enrolled and receive their AATICD LMS login details by email, along with joining instructions for their chosen training method.

Group discounts apply automatically – the more delegates you enrol, the lower the price per delegate. No payment is required to request a quotation.

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