



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

Music Arranging in New Formats

Culture and Arts / Music

Unit Standard 253154 · NQF Level 5 · 20 Credits · 17 Days

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course equips learners with the skills to arrange music in new formats, enabling them to creatively adapt existing musical works for different ensembles, genres, or performance contexts. Participants will learn to analyse musical structures, apply arranging techniques, and produce well-crafted arrangements suitable for diverse audiences and settings.

Category	Culture and Arts
Subfield	Music
Unit Standard	253154
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 5 · 20 Credits
Duration	17 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS – verifiable online

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Analyse the structural and harmonic elements of a given piece of music to determine adaptation possibilities.
- Apply arranging techniques such as reharmonisation, orchestration, and stylistic adaptation to transform music into a new format.
- Demonstrate the ability to write and notate arrangements for specified ensembles or instruments.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of an arrangement in meeting the intended musical and contextual requirements.
- Design a complete arrangement of a selected piece, ensuring coherence and creative expression.
- Implement feedback to refine and finalise an arrangement for performance or presentation.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- This course is designed for musicians, composers, music teachers, and aspiring arrangers who wish to expand their ability to rework music into new formats, whether for live performance, recording, or educational purposes.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1: Introduction to Music Arranging and New Formats

- Definition and history of music arranging
- Overview of new formats: streaming, interactive media, virtual reality
- The arranger's toolkit: DAWs, notation software, virtual instruments
- Industry trends and career opportunities
- Unit standard 253154 overview
- Ethical considerations and copyright in digital arranging

Day 2: Music Theory Foundations for Arrangers

- Review of scales, modes, and intervals
- Chord construction and extensions (7ths, 9ths, sus chords)
- Common progressions and modulation techniques
- Melodic development and motif manipulation
- Rhythmic feel: groove, swing, and time signatures
- Form analysis: verse-chorus, through-composed, sectional

Day 3: Instrumentation and Orchestration for Modern Ensembles

- Instrument families: strings, brass, woodwinds, percussion
- Synthesisers and electronic sound design basics
- Writing for rhythm section: drums, bass, guitar, keys
- Orchestration principles: doubling, spacing, register
- Using MIDI mapping and articulation switching
- Practical scoring for hybrid acoustic-electronic setups

Day 4: Arranging for Vocal Groups and Choirs

- Vocal anatomy and range classification (SATB)
- Harmony writing: close and open voicings
- Counterpoint and call-and-response techniques
- Stylistic approaches: pop, gospel, jazz, classical
- Using vocal percussion and beatboxing in arrangements
- Score layout for vocal parts

Day 5: Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) and Scoring

- DAW overview: Logic Pro, Cubase, Ableton Live
- Setting up projects: tempo, time signature, key
- MIDI editing: quantisation, velocity, expression
- Audio recording basics: input levels, comping
- Scoring to picture: hit points and cues
- Notation export and lead sheet creation

Day 6: Arranging for Film, TV, and Media

- Spotting session basics and cue sheets
- Emotional mapping: tension, release, mood
- Orchestral writing for screen: strings, brass, percussion
- Electronic scoring: pads, drones, soundscapes
- Using click tracks and timecode

- Practical exercise: arranging a short scene

Day 7: Arranging for Live Performance

- Live vs. studio: differences in arrangement approach
- Instrument substitution: from strings to synth pads
- Chart writing: chord charts, Nashville numbers, tab
- Rehearsal strategies and communication with band
- Monitoring and foldback considerations
- Practical: arranging a song for a live 5-piece band

Day 8: Stylistic Arranging: Pop, Rock, and R&B;

- Pop structure: intro, verse, chorus, bridge, outro
- Rock arranging: power chords, driving rhythms, anthemic choruses
- R&B: extended harmonies, groove, vocal ad-libs
- Hook creation: melodic and rhythmic motifs
- Production layering: pads, stabs, risers
- Automation for dynamics and interest

Day 9: Stylistic Arranging: Jazz, Latin, and World Music

- Jazz: chord substitutions, reharmonisation, swing feel
- Latin: clave patterns, montuno, bossa nova, samba
- World music: pentatonic scales, microtones, traditional instruments
- Cross-cultural fusion techniques
- Writing for horn sections and rhythm section
- Practical: arrange a jazz standard with Latin influence

Day 10: Arranging for Electronic Dance Music (EDM)

- EDM genres: house, techno, dubstep, trance
- Beat programming: kick, clap, hi-hat, percussion
- Bassline writing: sub-bass, wobble, arpeggios
- Synth lead design and layering
- Build-ups: risers, snare rolls, vocal chops
- Mixing and arrangement for club systems

Day 11: Arranging for Interactive Media (Video Games, VR)

- Interactive music systems: layers, transitions, states
- Horizontal resequencing: branching and crossfading
- Vertical layering: intensity and variation
- Loop creation: seamless, varied, and loop points
- Stingers and one-shots for events
- Practical: arrange a simple game scene with adaptive music

Day 12: Arranging for Musical Theatre and Cabaret

- Musical theatre forms: 32-bar, AABA, ABAC
- Pit orchestration: strings, reeds, brass, percussion
- Vocal arrangements: duets, trios, ensemble numbers
- Underscore dialogue and scene changes
- Cabaret: piano-based arrangements, intimate dynamics
- Practical: arrange a show tune for small ensemble

Day 13: Advanced Harmony and Reharmonisation

- Extended chords: 11ths, 13ths, altered dominants
- Tritone substitution and diminished passing chords
- Modal interchange: borrowing from parallel modes
- Reharmonisation methods: diatonic substitution, chromatic approach
- Voice leading in complex harmonies
- Practical: reharmonise a standard tune

Day 14: Counterpoint and Contrapuntal Arranging

- First to fifth species counterpoint overview
- Writing invertible counterpoint
- Canon and round techniques
- Fugue exposition and development
- Counterpoint in pop: layered vocals, instrumental lines
- Practical: compose a short contrapuntal piece for 3 instruments

Day 15: Production and Mixing for Arrangers

- Mixing workflow: level setting, panning, EQ
- Compression for dynamics and glue
- Reverb and delay for depth and space
- Automation for arrangement emphasis
- Reference tracks and A/B comparison
- Exporting stems and final mixes

Day 16: Final Project Planning and Drafting

- Project brief development: genre, instrumentation, duration
- Structural planning: form, sections, transitions
- Sketching: lead sheet, chord chart, rough mix
- Time management and milestone setting
- Peer review criteria and feedback process
- Practical: begin final arrangement project

Day 17: Final Project Presentation and Course Wrap-Up

- Final project presentations (audio/score)
- Critique and feedback session
- Revision strategies based on feedback
- Career paths: freelance arranger, media composer, music director
- Portfolio building and networking
- Course evaluation and certification information

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 **20 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 5**.

PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 56,500.00	R 56,500.00
1	In-House	R 73,400.00	R 73,400.00
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 84,700.00	R 84,700.00

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Start	End	Method	Venue
10 Aug 2026	01 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Abu Dhabi, UAE
11 Aug 2026	02 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
11 Aug 2026	02 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Mauritius
12 Aug 2026	03 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Cape Town, South Africa
13 Aug 2026	04 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE
14 Aug 2026	07 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
17 Aug 2026	08 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
18 Aug 2026	09 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Shenzhen, China

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 253154) 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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