



Accredited Africa Training Institute for Capacity Development

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

Tel: +27 12 004 8389 · Mobile: +27 65 077 6310

Email: apply@aaticd.co.za · Website: www.aaticd.co.za

COURSE BROCHURE

Read and Interpret Musical Scores

Culture and Arts / Music

Unit Standard 253174 · NQF Level 5 · 30 Credits · 27 Days

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course equips learners with the foundational skills to read and interpret musical scores, enabling them to understand notation, rhythm, pitch, dynamics, and expression markings. It bridges theory and practical application, empowering musicians, educators, and enthusiasts to accurately perform and analyze written music.

Category	Culture and Arts
Subfield	Music
Unit Standard	253174
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 5 · 30 Credits
Duration	27 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS – verifiable online

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Identify and interpret standard musical notation symbols, including notes, rests, clefs, key signatures, and time signatures.
- Apply knowledge of rhythm and meter to accurately perform or clap rhythmic patterns from a score.
- Analyze pitch relationships and intervals as notated on the staff.
- Demonstrate the ability to follow dynamic and articulation markings to shape musical expression.
- Evaluate a musical score for structural elements such as repeats, codas, and tempo changes.
- Interpret and perform a simple musical piece from a score with correct pitch, rhythm, and expression.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Aspiring musicians, music educators, choir or band members, and anyone seeking to develop or refine their ability to read and interpret standard musical notation.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1: Introduction to Musical Scores

- What is a musical score?
- History of music notation
- The staff, ledger lines, and clefs
- Treble, bass, alto, and tenor clefs
- Note names and octave registers
- Basic score layout: title, composer, tempo, key signature

Day 2: Note Values and Rhythm

- Note symbols and durations
- Rests and their symbols
- Dotted notes and ties
- Simple time signatures (2/4, 3/4, 4/4)
- Counting beats and subdivisions
- Rhythm reading exercises

Day 3: The Grand Staff and Piano Scores

- The grand staff: treble and bass combined
- Middle C and ledger lines
- Note-to-key mapping
- Reading intervals: seconds, thirds, fifths
- Simple piano score examples

Day 4: Key Signatures and Scales

- Major scales: pattern of whole and half steps
- Key signatures: sharps and flats order
- Circle of fifths overview
- Relative minor keys
- Scale degree numbers

Day 5: Intervals and Chords

- Interval names: unison to octave
- Perfect, major, minor, augmented, diminished
- Triads: root, third, fifth
- Major and minor chords
- Chord inversions

Day 6: Time Signatures and Meter

- Simple vs compound meter
- Beat grouping and accents
- 6/8, 9/8, 12/8 time
- Anacrusis (upbeat)
- Syncopation basics
- Conducting patterns

Day 7: Dynamics and Articulation

- Dynamic levels: pp to ff

- Gradual dynamics: crescendo, diminuendo
- Articulation: staccato, legato, tenuto, accent
- Slurs and phrasing marks
- Expression markings

Day 8: Tempo and Expression Marks

- Tempo terms: allegro, adagio, andante, etc.
- Metronome markings (bpm)
- Tempo changes: ritardando, accelerando
- Expression terms: dolce, cantabile, maestoso
- Rubato and fermata

Day 9: Repeats and Codas

- Repeat signs and bar lines
- First and second endings (volt brackets)
- D.C. al Fine, D.C. al Coda
- D.S. al Coda
- Segno and coda symbols

Day 10: Ornaments and Grace Notes

- Trill (tr)
- Upper and lower mordent
- Turn (gruppetto)
- Appoggiatura and acciaccatura
- Ornament execution in different periods

Day 11: Clefs Beyond Treble and Bass

- Alto clef (viola)
- Tenor clef (cello, bassoon, trombone)
- Movable C-clef
- Reading notes in alto and tenor clefs
- Score examples for viola and cello

Day 12: Transposition and Transposing Instruments

- Transposing instruments: Bb, F, Eb, etc.
- Concert pitch vs written pitch
- Common transpositions: trumpet, clarinet, horn
- Transposition intervals
- Reading transposed scores

Day 13: Score Reading for Ensemble

- Orchestral score order: woodwinds, brass, percussion, strings
- Rehearsal letters/numbers
- Cue notes and entrances
- Reading multiple parts at once
- Score reduction basics

Day 14: Vocal Scores and Lyrics

- Soprano, alto, tenor, bass (SATB)
- Lyrics underlay and syllable breaks

- Choral score layout (open vs close score)
- Verse and refrain structure
- Vocal ornamentation

Day 15: Lead Sheets and Chord Charts

- Lead sheet format: melody line + chord symbols
- Chord symbol notation: Cmaj7, Dm7, G7, etc.
- Slash chords and inversions
- Chord chart layout for band
- Basic comping patterns

Day 16: Advanced Rhythms and Polyrhythms

- Irregular time signatures
- Hemiola
- Polyrhythm notation and counting
- Cross-rhythms
- Practical rhythmic exercises

Day 17: Score Analysis and Interpretation

- Harmonic analysis: chord functions
- Phrase structure and cadences
- Form: binary, ternary, sonata-allegro
- Performance practice considerations
- Interpretive markings and style

Day 18: Contemporary and Graphic Notation

- Contemporary notation: clusters, glissandi, harmonics
- Graphic scores: shapes, lines, textures
- Aleatoric music: chance elements
- Extended techniques for various instruments
- Score examples from 20th/21st century

Day 19: Sight-Reading Strategies

- Pre-scanning: key, time, dynamics, tempo
- Rhythmic chunking and pattern recognition
- Intervallic reading
- Keeping steady beat
- Sight-reading exercises with varied difficulty

Day 20: Integration and Final Assessment

- Review of key concepts
- Full score reading project
- Practical assessment: sight-read and interpret
- Feedback and improvement strategies
- Course wrap-up and resources

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 **30 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 5**.

PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 83,400.00	R 83,400.00
1	In-House	R 108,400.00	R 108,400.00
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 125,100.00	R 125,100.00

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Start	End	Method	Venue
10 Aug 2026	15 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
10 Aug 2026	15 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Mauritius
11 Aug 2026	16 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Cape Town, South Africa
12 Aug 2026	17 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE
13 Aug 2026	18 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
14 Aug 2026	21 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Abu Dhabi, UAE
17 Aug 2026	22 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Shenzhen, China
18 Aug 2026	23 Sep 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 253174) 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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