

L3 Diploma in Music Performance & Production

Unit 8 Collaborative Performance Project - Assessment and Grading Record Sheet

The learner can provide evidence of:		R	P	M	D
Context	Comment				
1.1 Analyse the requirements and parameters of a collaborative music performance project	Understanding of subject context used appropriately to make judgments, describe aims and clarify purpose.		X		
Research					
2.1 Review a range of research sources to support the production of a performance project	Sufficient relevant information has been gathered, documented and used in the development of ideas.		X		
2.2 Interpret research to develop ideas and effectively communicate to an audience			X		
Practical skills					
3.1 Demonstrate the ability to contribute to the planning, organisation and development of a collaborative performance	In depth understanding and aesthetic awareness, imaginative and flexible processes, skills and knowledge applied in extensive enquiry to develop creative solutions.				X
3.2 Apply practical skills, knowledge and understanding to complete a collaborative performance project within an agreed timeframe					X
Evaluation and reflection					
4.1 Critically evaluate a collaborative performance project against the agreed requirements and parameters	Effective communication of analysis and interpretation, independent synthesis of information and application of reasoned decision making to inform development of ideas.			X	

Candidate ID: 10668134 Luke Ayres		Grade PASS
Pathway: MPP		
Centre: Bradford College	Assessor: Lewis Blofeld Second Marker: Nicolas Sykes	Dates Initial Marking: 07/06/23 Second Marking: 12/06/23

Commentary as appropriate:

Well done Luke, you have completed this project to a Pass standard. The work submitted meets all the assessment criteria and is of a satisfactory standard.

Context – A lot of your research is heavily paraphrased, although you should be providing contextual information based on fact, it is also important that the work is created with your own opinion and views, otherwise the sites you have used for sources may as well be copy and pasted. There is very little depth in terms of the distribution and release strategy, this is an area that should have had lots of contextual relevance to your project, primary research could have helped you understand your target audience, who you haven't identified. Understanding the market could have been researched and explored. The work you have provided highlights some artists and their achievements, but it doesn't explore their impact on the music, their techniques or what you have taken from them, inspiration, technical knowledge, marketing knowledge. This is the same in the mixing section, what use are these techniques and processes to your work, what impact do they have? The context you have created doesn't help in the development of your project. The contextual information doesn't demonstrate that you understand it as it is not utilised in any form, instead it shows work from another author that has been rewritten.

Research – As mentioned above there is a significant portion of paraphrased work that does not add any quality to your work. The purpose of research is to inform your work, from the planning, development and production. The research you have provided does not provide any information that you have incorporated into your project, it merely rewrites someone else's work. There is no primary research into your target audience or in evaluation of the product. There is no continual research throughout your project, you should be continually researching to explore more methods, techniques and skills in production or audience analysis and demographic statistics. The research presented does not provide much in terms of a foundation for your production aside from highlighting existing artists, engineers and what mixing is.

Practical Skills – In creating the track page you explore the development of the track, the track has been created from a series of loops but there is no evidence of where these samples are from, is it a sample pack? The page explains your arrangement ideas and how you structured the piece but there is no evidence of creation here. Use of your own samples, editing and processing them, sound design and synthesis, use of MIDI instruments. As the track is solely loop based there isn't much in terms of originality, how did you shape and adjust them to be unique? The mix and mastering page documents the effects you used but there is no explanation of why and how you used them, what compressor setting did you use? Why? As the loops are already effect-baked, they shouldn't need effects, so why were they used? Again, there is no expression of what you were trying to achieve and how you made it original. How were the vocals processed? What effect settings did you use and why? How did these relate to the context of the music you were trying to make, what expectations are there for House vocals? There is very little expression of your creative ideas and how you achieved them. The video follows suit, how and why was it made, what creative decisions were made, how did the cuts match the beat? As for the artwork, how was it created?

The final track is good, but it is hard to determine how much of it was your creation and how much was pre-made loops. The arrangement is evidenced in your production and is excellent, but the mix is again clouded by what was pre-produced as a loop and what was your production.

Providing the samples for the work would have provided a much clearer view of what you started with and what you created.

Evaluation and Reflection – There is a lot of discussion in what you have learnt from your research but this is not always evident in your work. The research you explored provided some factual information, but this has not been incorporated into your work, you haven't interpreted the research to use in your production. The evaluation is ongoing but sometimes brief, there are some pointers towards the success of the project but then there is no primary research to show this, there is no analysis of the listens on Spotify or Soundcloud or peer reviews of the track. In terms of the mix, you state that the track could have been more clean, what do you mean by this? You could have analysed the track with technical language and compared it to existing tracks to provide a more detail and expansive reflection. Your evaluation does pick up on the strengths and weaknesses of the project but there is a lack of depth in analysis of these and how you might improve them in future.

Summary – in conclusion there is some excellent practical work here, the balance and use of appropriate sounds, combined with thoughtful aesthetics demonstrates your skill in developing a professional product. There could be more creative input that would significantly enhance the originality of the track and artwork and ensure your skills as a producer improve, moving away from loops will help you develop your own sound as a produced and create music that stands out, or in developing your own manipulated and sampled loops. The research and context lacked application and relevance to your project. There is so much research you could have completed that would have enhanced your knowledge, processes, techniques, and methods but the research provided does little to enable this. Mixing and Production videos from professionals could have been utilised to develop new skills and techniques, videos and marketing material could have been explored for inspiration and marketing strategy information. Historic use of instruments and synths could have been incorporated to demonstrate the relation to the sounds you chose to create a house track. There is a missed opportunity here to develop your knowledge much further. The evaluation could have used more sources to provide a more thorough and expressive reflection whilst identifying your target audience and providing feedback from them. Primary research could have been used to inform your reflection and provided a rounded understanding of what you have achieved. There is a huge potential here but more time needs to be spent on ensuring it is achieved.

Your portfolio looks comprehensive but in examining it in detail it is evident that a large portion of the research is copy and pasted without any incorporation into the project, try to focus on ensuring the detail of the submission is there rather than provide lots of content that has no relevance or application.

Second Marker Comments:

The continuity of the context is somewhat lacking; it is unfortunate, for example that there is an absence of any reflective thoughts subsequent to your initial presentation. The lack of clarity of both writing and chronology as well as depth of ideas results in a pass mark for context. All areas of your project should have been researched from a multitude of sources; marketing, mixing, musical stimuli, creation of artwork. A much broader range of research should be acquired to obtain a higher mark. The practical work you have produced is excellent and I have really enjoyed listening to the track. Like other areas of your portfolio it could be made stronger by including more reflective thoughts. Reflecting on any setbacks within your project would have given your portfolio great depth and helped the reader understand any difficulties you faced and how you overcame them. In future projects, ensure almost everything you are trying to communicate portrays a reflective understanding to the reader. Overall, you didn't challenge yourself in the project Luke and relied heavily on musical material and skills you already possessed. You are capable of achieving a much higher grade with more consistent work and commitment.

Exemplification for UAL Awarding Body Grade Criteria – Level 3

This guide is to be used in conjunction with the assessment and grading criteria for UAL Awarding Body qualifications at Level 3.

	Fail Work submitted fails to meet one or more of the assessment criteria and is of a poor standard	Pass Work submitted meets all of the assessment criteria and is of a satisfactory standard	Merit Work submitted meets all assessment criteria and is of a high standard	Distinction Work submitted meets all assessment criteria and is of a very high standard
Context	Limited understanding of subject context, lacking clarity in aims and purpose.	Understanding of subject context used appropriately to make judgments, describe aims and clarify purpose.	Good understanding and knowledge of subject context used to make sound judgments, articulate ambitions and clarify purpose.	Comprehensive understanding and knowledge of subject context used to communicate complex concepts, articulate ambitions and clarify purpose.
Research	Little or no evidence presented or information does not relate sufficiently to task.	Sufficient relevant information has been gathered, documented and used in the development of ideas.	Thorough and sustained research and investigation of relevant sources, interpretation and synthesis of information used to inform, support and develop ideas.	Independently identified, thorough and sustained research and investigation of a range of relevant sources, insightful interpretation and synthesis of information used to inform, support and develop ideas.
Practical skills	Limited range of processes demonstrated, judgement and execution of techniques is poor.	Adequate range of processes, skills and knowledge demonstrated. Competent execution and application of techniques used to develop ideas.	Consistent and appropriate processes, skills and knowledge applied to extend enquiry and develop creative solutions.	In depth understanding and aesthetic awareness, imaginative and flexible processes, skills and knowledge applied in extensive enquiry to develop creative solutions.
Evaluation and reflection	Insufficient evidence of ongoing evaluation, lack of or only basic analysis and little or no justification for ideas.	Clearly communicated evidence of valid evaluation and realistic analysis independently used to inform and develop ideas.	Effective communication of analysis and interpretation, independent synthesis of information and application of reasoned decision making to inform development of ideas.	Accomplished and professional communication of perceptive analysis and interpretation, demonstrating clarity and sophistication in thinking and maturity in decision making to progress ideas.