



# 2010 -2011 COURSE HANDBOOK

## CONTENTS

### Introduction

- 1 ABOUT THE COURSE
  - WHO SHOULD DO IT
  - REQUIREMENTS
  - TIMESCALE & COMMITMENT
  - PHILOSOPHY BEHIND IT
- 2 WHAT YOU LEARN
- 3 COURSE STRUCTURE
  - LENGTH OF COURSE
  - TIMESCALE & COMMITMENT
  - TEACHING FORMAT
  - ASSESSMENT
  - COURSE TIMETABLE
- 4 COURSE TIMETABLE



## PLYMOUTH MUSIC ZONE

Brickfields Raglan Road Plymouth PL1 4NQ Tel 01752 213690

[www.plymouthmusiczone.org.uk](http://www.plymouthmusiczone.org.uk)



## INTRODUCTION

I've worked in community music for 12 years and I remember spending many an hour in the past wishing a course like this actually existed. Why? One, because I wanted someone to give me the knowledge I needed to do more of what I loved doing and, two, I needed to develop the right skills to help me get more work doing what I was becoming increasingly interested in. Well, Plymouth Music Zone's in-house training programme, ***Soundskills – the Music Leader***, does exactly that. It's a practical, part-time course that's now entering its sixth year. In fact, ***Soundskills – the Music Leader*** is gaining an increasing reputation for being as much about quality and innovation as skills and inspiration.

So, if you're a musician with an interest in education and want to learn and develop teaching strategies that can be used alongside musical skills then this may well be the right path for you. This course handbook will detail everything you need to know about the course structure and what you can expect from it and, crucially, how it can be tailored to your individual needs.

The course is accredited by the **National Open College Network** and allows learners to accumulate nationally recognised credits.

All in all, *PMZ's Soundskills – The Music Leader* is an exciting addition to the core activities provided by Plymouth Music Zone and contributes towards the creation of a professional development path for the working musician. It was created to help you succeed, we really hope you do.

We look forward to working with you.

Ben Ballard  
Project Director



## 1. ABOUT THE COURSE

There is a real trend in music education towards encouraging musicians to develop an understanding and awareness of processes and techniques involved in education. There are also moves towards extending the role of the performer/composer into a much broader role within music education. This looks set to continue in the next few years and could lead to more potential employment opportunities for Music Leaders.

**Soundskills – The Music Leader** is a Plymouth Music Zone course that attempts to capitalise on these exciting developments. It is designed to relate to the individual needs of participants encouraging the acquisition of communication, teaching and learning strategies based on musical skills. Opportunities will also be made available for the practical implementation of skills learnt with established groups.

**Soundskills – The Music Leader** is offered in partnership with **City College Plymouth** which means that students have access to some of the facilities and services available at the college.

### WHO SHOULD DO IT?

- Musicians (of any style) wishing to develop their employment base
- Composers
- Community music educators
- Working musicians interested in developing their music education skills

## REQUIREMENTS

Applicants will need:

- Commitment to study part-time and ongoing throughout the year
- Willingness and motivation to learn
- Awareness of music education
- Ability to formulate and assess ideas and applications
- Musical capabilities

## PHILOSOPHY BEHIND IT

**Soundskills – The Music Leader** equips learners with the techniques and knowledge required to effectively facilitate community music-making workshops in a variety of settings.

Community music-making, for the purposes of this course, is considered to have the following characteristics:

- music-making in groups (with a significant degree of collaborative decision-making)
- music-making that reflects and illuminates the culture of the participants
- music-making in the moment (that is, not in preparation for some future public event)
- music-making that is built on and unleashes the creative capacities of the participants in the immediate situation in which it is occurring

With these characteristics in mind, the role of the skilled individual has a specific focus when involved in facilitating community music-making:

- Skilled musicians have a primarily facilitative / inspirational role. Their main function is to liberate the creativity of the groups they work with rather than to use the situation as a basis for making their own music
- The primary function of teachers/trainers/educators is to develop group music-making capacities rather than to teach music theory



## 2. WHAT YOU LEARN

**Soundskills – The Music Leader** is a **NOCN Level 2 National Certificate** which explores and develops the following areas:

### **1. Developing Musical Ensemble Skills**

This part of the course focuses on the knowledge and skills needed as musician in developing and using technical skills and practice routines to demonstrate musical competence through performance. You will also reflect on your own contribution and success of the performance as a whole.

### **2. Composition, Improvisation and Songwriting**

You will have the chance to develop compositional ideas and skills. You will not only develop your own compositional, improvisational and songwriting skills but also the skills to deliver a workshop to young people in this area of music-making.

### **3. Developing Leadership Skills**

You will have the opportunity to develop your leadership skills through planning and delivering a music workshop. It looks at what is needed in a leader and the skills and abilities required.

### **4. Understanding Disability and Community Music**

This part of the course focuses on the knowledge, philosophies and skills required to engage and support young people with disabilities in music-making. You will examine policies, models of disability, music technology and workshop methods and approaches. You will also have the opportunity to use PMZ's bespoke multi-sensory room facility.

### **5. Personal Career Planning**

You will be given support to identify your own strengths, qualities, skills and abilities and match these to career choices, using them as a basis for career action planning.

In addition to these modules, learners will be expected to shadow and assist in a number of music workshops throughout the year. This can be arranged through Plymouth Music Zone or at an alternative location.



## **3. COURSE STRUCTURE**

### **LENGTH OF COURSE**

The course runs from September to July, every Thursday evening from 6.30-9.30pm during term-time (timetable to be confirmed).

### **TEACHING FORMAT**

The course will be offered in various formats including: evening classes, Saturday whole-day workshops and placements (observation and participation).

### **ASSESSMENT**

Learners will be assessed in various ways depending on the module including: attendance, group discussions, keeping a personal journal (descriptions of workshops and sessions attended, evaluations, observations, etc.) and practical work (shadowing, placements, etc.)

### **QUALIFICATION**

You will gain a **Level 2 National Certificate** accredited by the National Open College Network (NOCN).