

N.Z. MODERN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

GUITAR EXAMINATION SYLLABUS

PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE

NOTE: A minimum pass of 400 marks in the NZMSM Diploma Theory of Music Examination is an additional requirement for this Performance Examination.

A copy of the candidate's result sheet must be sent in with the examination entry form.

- An advanced level of improvisation, musicality and creativity is expected.
- The copies of the composition, notated piece, all arrangements and the analysis **must** be forwarded to the panel of examiners 21 days prior to the examination date.
- All pieces and the composition will be performed before a panel of three examiners and an audience.
- An oral interview prior to the performance will be convened by the examiners. This will include a discussion of the analysis for the notated piece, sections I to IV pieces, and a discussion about the composition process.
- If two or more candidates sit this examination, they cannot combine section IV marks but may use each other as an accompanist or for back-up.
- Music downloads from the internet are permitted provided that they have been legally obtained.
- Live backing or recorded backing is permitted.
- A maximum of 200 marks will be awarded for this certificate.

PRESENTATION: 10 marks

The standard of dress for this performance is formal.

Marks will be allocated for the standard and presentation of the written material, the programme provided, the interaction with the audience and the overall performance.

ORAL INTERVIEW: 20 marks

- The interview will be approximately one hour.
- A discussion about the historical details of the works, the composers, style and the structure of the pieces performed.
- A discussion about the playing technique/s required for the pieces which will include: positions, harmonics and embellishments.
- The candidate will be asked to demonstrate the structure of compound chords and explain the degrees that make up these chords.
- All books containing the originals of the works **must** be available at the interview.

COMPOSITION: 30 marks

The candidate must be able to demonstrate an advanced level of creative ability and musicality.

The composition **must** be between three and five minutes duration.

Criteria for this section:

- An introduction and ending appropriate for this level **must** be added.
- The candidate **must** choose their own time signature/s.
- Repeat signs, *Dal Segno* and *Da Capo* **may** be included.
- Expression and dynamics **must** be included and marked on the music.
- Lyrics **must** be written for the piece and sung, or alternative the melody **must** be set to a poem and recited.
- The work **must** be given a title.
- The final work **must** be either computer written or hand written **by the candidate**.

NOTATED TWENTIETH CENTURY PIECE and ANALYSIS 40 marks*(Composer and work from the 20th century)*

- From any publication.
- The maximum time allowance is eight minutes.

Criteria for this section:

- The piece **must** be a minimum of three pages.
- The music used for this piece **must** not contain chord symbols.
- The candidate **must** in their own words, provide a written analysis for this piece. Style, form, history, cadences and chord structure **must** be included.

PIECES: 100 marks**Criteria for the pieces:**

Four works **must** be performed, **one** from each section.

An introduction and ending **must** be added where none is given.

The candidate **must** choose pieces of contrasting style, mood and rhythm.

Medleys **must** modulate into different keys using an appropriate chord progression.

The candidate is expected to use harmony, improvisation and syncopation where appropriate.

Expression and dynamics **must** be included and marked on the music.

Performance details: the candidate **must** provide the audience with a verbal summary of the content, context and the significance of their chosen pieces.

The original material together with the candidate's arrangements and group parts if applicable **must** be sent to the panel of examiners.

Section I: 25 marks**To Lead an Audience**

- Arrange a medley suitable for **one** of these two options: a child's birthday party
a community sing-a-long
- Choose pieces from any NZMSM publication.
- The maximum time allowance is five minutes.

Criteria for this section:

- **Must** be played from memory.
- The candidate **must** supply lyrics for the audience participation.
- The candidate will be expected to lead the audience for this sing-a-long.

Section II: 25 marks**Graded Tunes Books 6 or 7**

- Choose **one** piece not previously performed from the publications listed above.
- The maximum time allowance is five minutes.

Criteria for this section:

- This piece **must** be fully arranged.
- At least **one** verse **must** be sung with the guitar.

Section III: 25 marks**Jazz and/or Blues**

- A sophisticated Jazz or Blues arrangement of **two** pieces.
- From any publication with a **lead line and chord symbols only**.
- The maximum time allowance is eight minutes.

Criteria for this section:

- Bitonal chords, substitutions and alterations **must** be used.
- A **bridge passage of eight bars must be improvised at sight** between the two pieces.
The passage will be chorded by the examiners and given to the candidate immediately before the work is performed.
- **May** be accompanied by other instrument/s.

Section IV: 25 marks**Solo, Duo or Group Medley**

- From any publication.
- The maximum time allowance is eight minutes.

Criteria for this section:

- Choose **one** of the three options listed above.
- If the duo or group option is selected, it is the candidate's responsibility to organise this and provide any equipment required, including the music parts for additional participants.
- The medley **must** include a number of styles.
- The titles of all pieces **must** be listed on the Checklist sheet.

All markings must be removed from pieces except expression marks, position changes and notation of arrangement.

STRICTLY NO PHOTOCOPYING