

N.Z. MODERN SCHOOL OF MUSIC
MODERN PIANO 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 examination.

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

- 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.
- A maximum of 200 marks are 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.
- 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 time allowance for the composition **must** be between three and five minutes.

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 or alternatively, the melody **must** be set to a poem.
- 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 etc. **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.
- Bass chords **may** be altered or substituted.
- 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 **must** be sent to the panel of examiners.

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

- Arrange a medley suitable for **one** of these three options:
 - a child's birthday party
 - a Christmas party
 - a senior citizen's group
- Choose pieces from any NZMSM publications.
- 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**Film and/or Show**

- Arrange a selection of film or show tunes from **one** composer.
- From any publication, see examples below:
- The maximum time allowance is eight minutes.

Burt Bacharach
Elton John
Sherman Bros.

John Barry
Henry Mancini
Rodgers and Hart

Gershwin
Cole Porter
Lloyd Webber

Maurice Jarre
Rogers and Hammerstein
John Williams

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:

- A bridge passage of eight bars between the two pieces **must** be improvised at sight. The passage will be chorded by the examiners and given to the candidate immediately before the work is performed.
- Accompaniment with other instrumentalist/s is optional.

SECTION IV: 25 marks**Latin American and/or Boogie Woogie Medley**

- Choose pieces with a **lead line and chord symbols only** or a melody line that has been re-written from a Grand Stave.
- From any publication.
- The maximum time allowance is eight minutes.

Criteria for this section:

- The medley **must** include a variety of NZMSM bass styles as well as the candidate's own bass work.
- The titles of all pieces **must** be listed on the Checklist sheet.

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

STRICTLY NO PHOTOCOPYING