



NATIONAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC AND ARTS  
LONDON



syllabus

# ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD





**NATIONAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC, LONDON**  
**GRADE, MEDAL & DIPLOMA EXAMINATIONS IN**  
**ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD PERFORMANCE**  
**MARCH 2017 EDITION**

**SOLOS**

- Music showing pitch letters against the notes will only be permitted in Grades A, B and 1.
- Single finger chords are not permitted when using the auto-accompaniment facility.
- All grade solos should be played as written unless indicated otherwise. The use of fill-ins, introductions and endings may be of the candidate's choosing.
- A performance enhanced by the appropriate use of the keyboard's functions is expected and will be recognised in the mark awarded.
- Under no circumstances is the use of pre-recorded parts permitted, unless for multi-pad facility use.
- In grades 1 to 4, if a candidate feels that a solo **in the second list** is fairly easy to play then they are permitted to make changes by adjusting rhythm or pitch; arranging introductions and endings; modulating or anything else they consider to be enhancing to the score.
- Alternative solos are available in *Supplementary Electronic keyboard Pieces* published by DJL Publications. Each book refers to an NCM grade.
- If a four octave keyboard is used for grades A to 4, it may be necessary to adjust the notation to remain within the instrument's compass.

**PUBLISHERS**

CKP= Complete Keyboard Player , WP= Wise Publications, MJ= Microjazz, B&H= Boosey & Hawkes.

**VIVA VOCE THEORY**

In addition to the music theory questions there will be questions related to the requirements of performing on the electronic keyboard.

**SCALES & ARPEGGIOS**

- Up to grade 4 a four octave instrument is sufficient
- From grade 5, a five octave instrument is required
- Scales should be played using a clear piano voice
- In grades A to 5, scales are to be played in the keys of the selected solos.

- In grades 6 & 7 a choice of groups of scales is given. Candidates should always be prepared for the examiner to ask for all the scales with fewer sharps and flats than those listed.

## **SIGHT READING**

Sight reading tests correspond to the same standard as for the solos from two grades lower. From Grade 6 candidates may be asked to read from a two stave score as well as a typical keyboard one.

## **MARKS**

In grades A to 7 the maximum mark is 100. 65 marks are needed to pass; 75 to pass with Distinction; 85 to pass with Honours and 90 to pass with First Class Honours.

In grade 8 the maximum mark is 150. 100 marks are needed to pass; 120 to pass with Distinction; 130 to pass with Honours and 140 to pass with First Class Honours.

## **GRADE A**

### **Scales** (20 marks)

One octave, ascending and descending, hands separately; in the keys of the selected solos.

### **Solos**

Any **one** solo from the following list: (30 marks)

|                      |                       |    |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----|
| Little Bo-Peep       | CKP Book 1 Supplement | WP |
| Marianne             | CKP Book 1 Supplement | WP |
| Little Jack Horner   | CKP Book 1 Supplement | WP |
| Long, Long Ago       | CKP Book 1 Supplement | WP |
| Beautiful Brown Eyes | CKP Book 1 Supplement | WP |
| White Rose of Athens | CKP Book 1 Supplement | WP |

PLUS

Either one further solo from the above list, or one own choice solo of a similar standard.  
(30 marks)

### **Viva Voce Theory** (20 marks)

- Very simple questions relating to the stave, treble and bass clefs, names and values of notes (quaver to semibreve), words and signs appearing in the music performed.
- Questions will also be asked about the technique of playing an electronic keyboard.

## **GRADE B**

### **Scales** (20 marks)

One octave, ascending and descending, hands together; in the keys of the selected solos.

## Solos

Any **two** contrasting solos from the following list: (20+20 marks)

|                         |                                      |    |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|----|
| Wooden Heart            | CKP Book 1 Supplement                | WP |
| This 'Ole House         | CKP Book 1 Supplement                | WP |
| Pastoral Symphony       | CKP Book 1 Supplement                | WP |
| Rio Grande              | CKP Book 1 Revised Edition           | WP |
| Tales of the Unexpected | CKP Book 1 Classic Edition           | WP |
| Blowin' in the Wind     | CKP Book 1 Classic & Revised Edition | WP |
| Super Trouper           | CKP Book 1 Classic Edition           | WP |
| Yellow                  | CKP Book 1 Revised Edition           | WP |

PLUS

Either one further solo from the above list, or one own choice solo of a similar standard.  
(20 marks)

**Viva Voce Theory** (20 marks)

- Very simple questions relating to the stave, treble and bass clefs, names and values of notes (quaver to semibreve), words and signs appearing in the music performed.
- Questions will also be asked about the technique of playing an electronic keyboard.

## Grade 1

**Scales** (10 marks)

Two octaves, ascending and descending, similar motion, hands together; in the keys of the selected solos.

## Solos

Any **two** contrasting solos from the following list: (15+15 marks)

|                          |                                      |     |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Rivers of Babylon        | CKP Book 1 Supplement                | WP  |
| España.                  | CKP Book 1 Supplement                | WP  |
| Eine Kleine Nachtmusik   | CKP Book 1 Supplement                | WP  |
| Sometimes, When We Touch | CKP Book 1 Revised Edition           | WP  |
| I'd Like To Teach        | CKP Book 1 Classic Edition           | WP  |
| Let It Be                | CKP Book 1 Classic & Revised Edition | WP  |
| Seasons In The Sun       | CKP Book 1 Revised Edition           | WP  |
| For Once In My Life      | CKP Book 2 Classic Edition           | WP  |
| After The Battle         | MJ Collection 1                      | B&H |
| Questions                | MJ Collection 1                      | B&H |
| Sprightly                | MJ Collection 1                      | B&H |

PLUS

Any one solo from the following list. Please note that it is acceptable to be creative by making changes to the score so long as the essence of the music and its technical standard is maintained. (See general notes on page 1.)

|                  |                                       |            |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
|                  |                                       | (15 marks) |
| La Bamba         | CKP Book 1 Classic Edition            | WP         |
| Imagine          | CKP Book 1 Revised Edition            | WP         |
| Any Deam Will Do | CKP Book 1 Revised Edition            | WP         |
| Can You Feel?    | CKP Book 1 Revised Edition            | WP         |
| Get Back         | CKP Book 2 Classic & Revised Editions | WP         |
| No Matter What   | CKP Book 2 Revised Edition            | WP         |

**PLUS** (15 marks)  
Either one further solo from either of the above lists, or one own choice solo of similar standard of difficulty, to be played as written, or in the candidate's own arrangement.

**Sight Reading** (10 marks)  
Music of Grade A difficulty.

**Viva Voce Theory** (10 marks)

- Very simple questions relating to the stave, treble and bass clefs, names and values of notes (quaver to semibreve), words and signs appearing in the music performed.
- Rests and simple time signatures.
- Questions will also be asked about the technique of playing an electronic keyboard.

**Ear/Aural Tests** (10 marks)

1. To clap or tap the rhythm of a melody not exceeding four bars in length in two-four or three-four time, consisting of dotted minims, minims, crotchets and quavers, after it has been played twice by the examiner on the keyboard or piano.
2. To name any of the first five degrees of the major scale of C when played by the examiner on the keyboard or piano. The keynote will be played before each note to be identified.
3. To say whether a simple harmonic phrase is in a major or minor key after it has been played twice by the examiner on the keyboard or piano.

## **Grade 2**

**Scales** (10 marks)  
Two octaves, ascending and descending, similar motion, hands together; in the keys of the selected solos.

### **Solos**

Any **two** contrasting **solos** from the following list: (15+15 marks)

|                         |                            |     |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| Fortuosity              | CKP Book 2 Classic Edition | WP  |
| Guantanamo              | CKP Book 2 Classic Edition | WP  |
| Wheels                  | CKP Book 2 Classic Edition | WP  |
| What Kind Of Fool Am I? | CKP Book 2 Classic Edition | WP  |
| There She Goes          | CKP Book 2 Revised Edition | WP  |
| When You Say Nothing    | CKP Book 2 Revised Edition | WP  |
| Fields of Gold          | CKP Book 2 Revised Edition | WP  |
| Every breath You Take   | CKP Book 2 Revised Edition | WP  |
| Coconut Rag             | MJ Collection 2            | B&H |
| Spiritual               | MJ Collection 2            | B&H |
| Two-Handed Blues        | MJ Collection 2            | B&H |

**PLUS**

Any one solo from the following list. Please note that it is acceptable to be creative by making changes to the score so long as the essence of the music and its technical standard is maintained. (See general notes on page 1.)

(15 marks)

|                         |                                      |    |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|----|
| Last of the Summer Wine | CKP Book 2 Classic Edition           | WP |
| Candle in the Wind      | CKP Book 2 Classic & Revised Edition | WP |
| The Tide is High        | CKP Book 2 Revised Edition           | WP |
| Wonderful Tonight       | CKP Book 2 Revised Edition           | WP |
| Sailing                 | CKP Book 2 Revised Edition           | WP |

**PLUS**

(15 marks)

The candidate's own arrangement of a medley of three pieces to be based on a stated theme. The medley should be of an appropriate technical standard for the Grade.

**Sight Reading**

(10 marks)

Music of Grade B difficulty.

**Viva Voce Theory**

(10 marks)

- Very simple questions relating to the stave, treble and bass clefs, names and values of notes (quaver to semibreve), words and signs appearing in the music performed.
- Rests and simple time signatures.
- Major key signatures
- Questions will also be asked about the technique of playing an electronic keyboard.

**Ear/Aural Tests**

(10 marks)

1. To clap or tap the rhythm of a melody not exceeding four bars in length in two-four or three-four time, consisting of dotted minims, minims, dotted crotchets, crotchets and quavers, after it has been played twice by the examiner on the keyboard or piano.

2. To name any note of the major scale of C when played by the examiner on the keyboard or piano. The keynote will be played before each note to be identified.
3. To say whether a simple harmonic phrase is in a major or minor key after it has been played twice by the examiner on the keyboard or piano.

### **Grade 3**

#### **Scales**

(10 marks)

Two octaves, ascending and descending, similar motion, hands together; in the keys of the selected solos.

#### **Solos**

Any **two** contrasting **solos** from the following list:

(15+15 marks)

|                       |                            |     |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| Stardust              | CKP Book 2 Classic Edition | WP  |
| Sailing               | CKP Book 2 Classic Edition | WP  |
| Bright Eyes           | CKP Book 3 Classic Edition | WP  |
| Tulips from Amsterdam | CKP Book 3 Classic Edition | WP  |
| Chanson D'Amour       | CKP Book 3 Revised Edition | WP  |
| She's the One         | CKP Book3 Revised Edition  | WP  |
| Angels                | CKP Book 3 Revised Edition | WP  |
| Livin' La Vida Loca   | CKP Book 3 Revised Edition | WP  |
| Jazz Waltz            | MJ Collection 2            | B&H |
| Conversation Piece    | MJ Collection 2            | B&H |
| An Adventure          | MJ Collection 2            | B&H |

#### **PLUS**

Any one solo from the following list. Please note that it is acceptable to be creative by making changes to the score so long as the essence of the music and its technical standard is maintained. (See general notes on page 1.)

(15 marks)

|                              |                            |    |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----|
| Yesterday                    | CKP Book 3 Revised Edition | WP |
| Can't Get You Out of My Head | CKP Book 3 Revised Edition | WP |
| I'm a Believer               | CKP Book 3 Revised Edition | WP |
| Reach                        | CKP Book 3 Revised Edition | WP |
| Everything I do              | CKP Book 3 Revised Edition | WP |

#### **PLUS**

(15 marks)

A medley of three pieces to be based on a stated theme. The medley should be of an appropriate technical standard for the Grade.

#### **Sight Reading**

(10 marks)

Music of Grade 1 difficulty.

**Viva Voce Theory**

(10 marks)

- Very simple questions relating to the staff, treble and bass clefs, names and values of notes (quaver to semibreve), words and signs appearing in the music performed.
- Rests and simple time signatures.
- Compound time
- Major and minor key signatures
- Harmonic and melodic minor scales
- Questions will also be asked about the technique of playing an electronic keyboard.

**Ear/Aural Tests**

(10 marks)

1. To clap or tap the rhythm of a melody not exceeding four bars in length in two-four or three-four time, after it has been played twice by the examiner on the keyboard or piano.
2. To name three diatonic notes played as a melody on the keyboard or piano and chosen from the major scales of C, F or G. The keynote will be stated and played.
3. To say whether a harmonic phrase is in a major or minor key and discuss the closing cadence.

**Grade 4**

**Scales**

(10 marks)

- Major scales, two octaves, ascending and descending, similar and contrary motion.
- Minor scales (harmonic & melodic), two octaves, similar motion
- Arpeggios, major keys only, hands separately.
- All scales and arpeggios in the keys of the selected solos.

**Solos**

Any **two** contrasting **solos** from the following list:

(15+15 marks)

|                        |                                       |     |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|
| When I'm Sixty-Four    | CKP Book 3 Classic & Revised Editions | WP  |
| Isn't she Lovely       | CKP Book 3 Classic Edition            | WP  |
| A Woman in Love        | CKP Book 3 Classic Edition            | WP  |
| Raindrops keep Falling | CKP Book 3 Classic Edition            | WP  |
| Mamma Mia              | CKP Book 3 Classic & Revised Editions | WP  |
| Bali Ha'I              | CKP Book 4                            | WP  |
| McNamara's Band        | CKP Book 4                            | WP  |
| Don't Blame Me         | CKP Song Book 4                       | WP  |
| Mix 'n' Match          | MJ Collection 3                       | B&H |
| Wombling               | MJ Collection 3                       | B&H |
| Shoehorn Blues         | MJ Collection 3                       | B&H |

**PLUS**



Any one solo from the following list. Please note that it is acceptable to be creative by making changes to the score so long as the essence of the music and its technical standard is maintained. (See general notes on page 1.)

|                         |                                       |            |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
|                         |                                       | (15 marks) |
| Callan                  | CKP Book 3 Classic Edition            | WP         |
| Hava Nagila             | CKP Book 3 Classic Edition            | WP         |
| Star Wars               | CKP Book 3 Classic & Revised Editions | WP         |
| House of the Rising Sun | CKP Book 4                            | WP         |
| The Wonder of You       | CKP Book 4                            | WP         |

**PLUS** (15 marks)

A medley of three pieces to be chosen from one of the following styles or genres.

- Jazz/Blues
- TV/Film Themes
- Tonal Era (1600-1900)

The medley should be of an appropriate technical standard for the Grade.

**Sight Reading** (10 marks)

Music of Grade 2 difficulty.

**Viva Voce Theory** (10 marks)

Questions as from earlier grades and general vocabulary of musical terms.

**Ear/Aural Tests** (10 marks)

1. To clap or tap the rhythm of a melody not exceeding four bars in length in two-four or three-four time, after it has been played twice by the examiner on the keyboard or piano.
2. To beat time (conduct) while the same melody is played again and to say whether it is in duple or triple time.
3. To hum or sing a simple four bar melody in a major key, in two-four or three-four time, after it has been played twice by the examiner.
4. To say whether a triad played by the examiner is minor or major.

**Grade 5**

**Scales** (10 marks)

- Scales, three octaves, ascending and descending, similar motion.
- Major only, two octaves, contrary motion
- Arpeggios, two octaves, similar motion.

- All scales and arpeggios in the keys of the selected solos.
- Chromatic scale from C, each hand separately.

### **Solos**

Any **two** contrasting **solos** from the following list: (15+15 marks)

|                         |                   |     |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----|
| Ain't Misbehavin'       | CKP Book 4        | WP  |
| Memory                  | CKP Book 4        | WP  |
| Green Eyes              | CKP Book 4        | WP  |
| On the Sunny Side       | CKP Book 4        | WP  |
| I Dreamed a Dream       | CKP Book 4        | WP  |
| I'm Getting Sentimental | CKP Song Book 4   | WP  |
| Fascination             | CKP Song Book 4   | WP  |
| Only Love               | CKP Song Book 4   | WP  |
| Nancy                   | CKP Sinatra Book  | WP  |
| The Gay Gordons         | CKP Scottish Book | WP  |
| Spring Song             | MJ Collection 3   | B&H |
| Highly Strung           | MJ Collection 3   | B&H |
| Fine Line               | MJ Collection 3   | B&H |

### **PLUS**

The candidate's own arrangement of one solo that is of an appropriate technical standard for this grade. (15 marks)

### **PLUS** (15 marks)

A medley of three pieces to be chosen from one of the following styles or genres.

- Pop Music (1970- present day)
- TV/Film Themes (1970- present day)
- Baroque (1600-1750)

The medley should be of an appropriate technical standard for the Grade.

### **Sight Reading** (10 marks)

Music of Grade 3 difficulty.

### **Viva Voce Theory** (10 marks)

Questions as from earlier grades and diatonic intervals within the octave.

### **Ear/Aural Tests** (10 marks)

1. To clap or tap the rhythm of a melody not exceeding four bars in length in two-four or three-four time, after it has been played twice by the examiner on the keyboard or piano.
2. To beat time (conduct) while the same melody is played again and to say whether it is in duple or triple time.
3. To hum or sing a simple four bar melody in a major key, in two-four, three-four or six-eight time, after it has been played twice by the examiner.
4. To say whether a triad played by the examiner is minor, major or augmented.
5. To sing the top, middle or lowest note of a major or minor triad after it has been played by the examiner, and to sing up all three notes after the chord has been played again.

## **Grade 6**

### **Scales**

(10 marks)

- Major and harmonic minor scales, three octaves, similar motion
- Major and harmonic minor scales, two octaves, contrary motion
- Melodic minor scales to be prepared in similar motion
- Arpeggios, three octaves, similar motion.
- Arpeggios, two octaves, contrary motion.
- Chromatic scale from any note, three octaves, similar motion

Any ONE of the following groups:

1. Majors and relative minors of G and D flat
2. Majors and relative minors of D and A flat
3. Majors and relative minors of A and E flat

### **Solos**

Any **two** contrasting **solos** from the following list:

(15+15 marks)

|                            |                       |     |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| Lollipops and Roses        | CKP Book 4            | WP  |
| Feelings                   | CKP Book 4            | WP  |
| That Ole Devil called Love | CKP Songbook 4        | WP  |
| O, Lady be Good            | CKP Gershwin Book     | WP  |
| Nice 'n' Easy              | CKP Sinatra Book      | WP  |
| The Tender Trap            | CKP Sinatra Book      | WP  |
| You Make Me Feel So Young  | CKP Sinatra Book      | WP  |
| Scottish Jig Medley        | CKP Scottish Book     | WP  |
| Wave                       | CKP Jazz & Blues Book | WP  |
| The Gay Gordons            | CKP Scottish Book     | WP  |
| Beguine                    | MJ Collection 3       | B&H |
| Mongoose Crawl             | MJ Collection 3       | B&H |

**PLUS**

The candidate's own arrangement of one solo that is of an appropriate technical standard for this grade. (15 marks)

**PLUS** (15 marks)

A medley of three pieces to be chosen from one of the following styles or genres.

- Pop Music (1990- present day)
- Film Themes (1970- present day)
- Baroque (1600-1750)

The medley should be of an appropriate technical standard for the Grade.

**Sight Reading** (10 marks)

Music of Grade 4 difficulty.

**Viva Voce Theory** (10 marks)

Questions as from earlier grades plus chromatic intervals and inversions. . In addition, questions will be asked relating to the technique of playing an electronic keyboard.

**Ear/Aural Tests** (10 marks)

1. To clap or tap the rhythm of a melody not exceeding four bars in length in two-four, three-four time or six-eight time after it has been played twice by the examiner on the keyboard or piano.
2. To beat time (conduct) while the same melody is played again and to say whether it is in duple or triple time.
3. To hum or sing a four bar melody in a minor key, in two-four, three-four or six-eight time, after it has been played twice by the examiner.
4. To say whether a triad played by the examiner is minor, major, augmented or diminished.
5. To sing the three notes of a major or minor chord as directed after the lowest note only has been played by the examiner, and when told the letter name of the lowest note, to give the letter names of the other two.

**Grade 7**

**Scales** (10 marks)

- Major scales, three octaves, similar motion, in octaves and 3rds.
- Major scales, two octaves, contrary motion, in octaves.
- Major scales, one octave, similar motion, double octaves (where the length of the keyboard permits)
- Harmonic minor scales, three octaves, similar motion, in octaves.
- Harmonic minor scales, two octaves, contrary motion in octaves.
- Harmonic minor scales, one octave, similar motion in double octaves.

- Arpeggios, with inversions, three octaves, similar motion;
- Arpeggios, root position only, two octaves, contrary motion.

Any ONE of the following groups:

1. Majors C and E flat; Minors C and B
2. Majors B flat and B; Minors F and F sharp
3. Majors E flat and F sharp; Minors G and c sharp.

### **Solos**

Any **two** contrasting **solos** from the following list: (15+15 marks)

|                            |                       |     |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| La Cumparsita              | CKP Book 4            | WP  |
| Sunrise, Sunset            | CKP Book 4            | WP  |
| It Ain't Necessarily So    | CKP Gershwin Book     | WP  |
| Rhapsody in Blue           | CKP Gershwin Book     | WP  |
| I've Got You Under My Skin | CKP Sinatra Book      | WP  |
| Moonglow                   | CKP Jazz & Blues Book | WP  |
| It's A Raggy Waltz         | CKP Jazz & Blues Book | WP  |
| Fever                      | CKP Dinner Jazz Book  | WP  |
| Mechanics' Rag             | MJ Collection 3       | B&H |
| Dreaming                   | MJ Collection 3       | B&H |

### **PLUS**

The candidate's own arrangement of one solo that is of an appropriate technical standard for this grade. (15 marks)

### **PLUS** (15 marks)

The candidate's own arrangement of a medley of three pieces to be chosen from one of the following styles.

- Baroque
- Classical
- Romantic

The medley should be of an appropriate technical standard for the Grade.

### **Sight Reading** (10 marks)

Music of Grade 5 difficulty.

### **Viva Voce Theory** (10 marks)

Questions as from earlier grades plus: triads, cadences, grace notes and melodic ornaments. In addition, questions will be asked relating to the technique of playing an electronic keyboard.

## Ear/Aural Tests

(10 marks)

1. To clap or tap the rhythm of a melody not exceeding four bars in length in six-eight or nine-eight time after it has been played twice by the examiner on the keyboard or piano.
2. To beat time (conduct) while the same melody is played again and to say whether it is in duple or triple time.
3. To sing or play from memory the upper part of a simple two part phrase in a major key, after it has been played twice by the examiner. The key will be stated.
4. To say whether a triad played by the examiner is minor or major, and whether in root position, first inversion or second inversion.
5. To say whether a harmonised phrase in a major or minor key, played twice by the examiner modulates at the end or remains in the tonic key.

## Grade 8

### **A PASS AT GRADE 5 THEORY OF MUSIC IS REQUIRED TO ENTER THIS GRADE**

#### Scales

(20 marks)

- Major and relative minor scales up to, and including five sharps and flats; three octaves, similar motion, two octaves, contrary motion. Major scales also to be played in 3rds, similar motion.
- Major and minor scales will be examined *piano* to *forte* and *forte* to *piano*.
- Chromatic scale, three octaves, similar motion. Two octaves, contrary motion. In double octaves
- Arpeggios, with inversions, three octaves, similar motion; root position only two octaves; contrary motion, one octave. Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> arpeggios in the keys of D, B flat, E and E flat, root position only.

#### Solos

Any **two** solos from the following list:

(25+25 marks)

|                              |                      |     |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----|
| El Cumbanchero               | CKP Book 4           | WP  |
| The Lonesome Road            | CKP Dinner Jazz Book | WP  |
| Lullaby of Birdland          | CKP Dinner Jazz Book | WP  |
| Don't Dream of Anyone but Me | CKP Dinner Jazz Book | WP  |
| Hungarian Stomp              | MJ Collection 3      | B&H |
| Love Song                    | MJ Collection 3      | B&H |

#### **PLUS**

The candidate's own arrangement of one solo that is of an appropriate technical standard for this grade.

(25 marks)

**PLUS** (25 marks)

An arrangement of a medley of three pieces to be chosen from one of the following styles.

- Baroque
- Classical
- Romantic

The medley should be of an appropriate technical standard for the Grade.

**Sight Reading** (10 marks)

Music of Grade 6 difficulty.

**Viva Voce Theory** (10 marks)

All rudiments of music; simple chord progression; general discussion with the examiner. In addition, questions will be asked relating to the technique of playing an electronic keyboard.

**Ear/Aural Tests** (10 marks)

1. To clap or tap the rhythm of a melody not exceeding four bars in length in six-eight or nine-eight time after it has been played twice by the examiner on the keyboard or piano.
2. To beat time (conduct) while the same melody is played again and to say whether it is in duple or triple time.
3. To sing or play from memory the lower part of a simple two part phrase in a major or minor key, after it has been played twice by the examiner. The key will be stated.
4. When told the letter name of the lowest note of a four-note chord, to give the letter name of the remaining three.
5. To recognise a modulation at the end of a harmonised phrase in a major key as going to the dominant, relative minor or supertonic minor.

### **DIPLOMA EXAMINATIONS IN ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD**

#### **DipNCM**

Candidates must have passed Grade 8 or the Senior Bronze Medal examination in Electronic Keyboard, and grade 5, or above, in Theory of Music: or examinations of equivalent standard from other examining Boards.

The DipNCM is a general recitalist programme with items chosen by candidates to represent a wide-ranging but coherent mix of mood, style, genre and tempo.

Candidates should demonstrate throughout, a musical technique together with a perception of artistic awareness at a level beyond Grade 8 and worthy of a public performance.

Copies of all relevant documentation, together with details of the programme to be performed should be forwarded to the College's Director of Studies for approval, one month before formal entry.

The examination consists of a Recital, Sight reading, Viva Voce and a Discussion with the examiner.

**Recital**

(100 marks)

Candidates are required to perform a programme of approximately 15 minutes in length. A high standard of performance is required. A minimum of two items should be selected from the following list:

|                     |                      |    |
|---------------------|----------------------|----|
| Lazy River          | CKP Dinner Jazz Book | WP |
| Lover               | CKP Dinner Jazz Book | WP |
| Misty               | CKP Dinner Jazz Book | WP |
| The Nearness of You | CKP Dinner Jazz Book | WP |
| Once in a While     | CKP Dinner Jazz Book | WP |

*All the above are to be played as written.*

In addition to the above items candidates should play an item of their own composition or a work from the Tonal Era (1600-1900).

For these two items it is permissible for candidates to assist their performances by using pre-sequenced tracks, provided they are the candidates' own pre-recorded work. If this option is used, it will not be necessary to provide the examiner with a full score; typical Electronic Keyboard scores (treble clef and chord symbols) will be acceptable.

**Sight Reading**

(20 marks)

Music of grade 6 standard.

**Viva Voce Theory**

(20 marks)

All rudiments of music and questions on form, stylistic features, harmonic language and composers of the pieces performed.

**Discussion with the Examiner**

(10 marks)

Discussion of the candidate's music making activities, compositions and presentation skills and so on.

**Marks**

Maximum marks are 150; the pass mark is 100.

**Associate Diploma (ANCM)**

Candidates must have passed the DipNCM examination in Electronic Keyboard, or an examination of equivalent standard from another Board. Copies of all relevant documentation, together with details of all the items to be performed, and the written essay, with a copy of the full score on which it is based, should be forwarded to the College's Director of Studies for approval one month before formal entry.



The examination will consist of a Recital, Sight Reading, Discussion with the Examiner and an Analytical Commentary Essay.

**Recital**

(90 marks)

Candidates are required to perform an own choice programme showing contrast of style and period at Associate diploma level of difficulty. The length of the recital should be approximately 20 minutes. Credit will be given for the quality of choice of each item and the compilation and presentation of the programme as a whole.

It is permissible for candidates to assist their performances by using pre-sequenced tracks, provided they are the candidates' own pre-recorded work. If this option is used, it will not be necessary to provide the examiner with a full score; typical Electronic Keyboard scores (treble clef and chord symbols) will be acceptable.

**Sight Reading**

(15 marks)

Music of grade 7 standard.

**Discussion with the Examiner**

(15 marks)

Discussion of the candidate's music making activities, compositions and presentation skills and the written essay.

**Analytical Commentary Essay**

(30 marks)

A written analytical commentary of approximately 500-700 words of continuous prose, based on one item from the Recital programme should be forwarded to the College's Director of Studies by email, one month before formal entry. A scanned copy of the score of the chosen item must accompany the essay.

**Marks**

Maximum marks are 150; the pass mark is 100.

**Licentiate Diploma (LNCM)**

Candidates must have passed the ANCM examination in Electronic Keyboard, or an examination of equivalent standard from another Board. Copies of all relevant documentation, together with details of all the items to be performed, and the written essay, with copies of the full scores on which it is based, should be forwarded to the College's Director of Studies for approval one month before formal entry.

The examination will consist of a Recital, Scales & Arpeggios, Discussion with the Examiner and an Analytical Commentary Essay.

**Recital**

(80 marks)

Candidates are required to perform an own choice programme showing contrast of style and period at Licentiate level of difficulty. The length of the recital should be approximately 25 minutes. Credit will be given for the quality of choice of each item and the compilation and presentation of the programme as a whole.

It is permissible for candidates to assist their performances by using pre-sequenced tracks, provided they are the candidates' own pre-recorded work. If this option is used, it will not be necessary to provide the examiner with a full score; typical Electronic Keyboard scores (treble clef and chord symbols) will be acceptable.

### **Scales & Arpeggios**

(20 marks)

All major and minor scales (harmonic and melodic), three octaves, ascending and descending, hands together, similar motion.

All major and harmonic minor scales, two octaves, hands together, in contrary motion.

All major and minor arpeggios, three octaves ascending and descending, hands together.

Diminished 7<sup>th</sup> and Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> arpeggios, three octaves, ascending and descending, hands together.

### **Discussion with the Examiner**

(20 marks)

Discussion of the candidate's music making activities, compositions and presentation skills and the written essay.

### **Analytical Commentary Essay**

(30 marks)

A written analytical commentary of approximately 1500 words of continuous prose, based on any two items from the Recital programme should be forwarded to the College's Director of Studies by email, one month before formal entry. Scanned copies of the scores of the chosen items must accompany the essay.

### **Marks**

Maximum marks are 150; the pass mark is 100.

### **Fellowship Diploma (FNCM)**

Candidates must have passed the LNCM examination in Electronic Keyboard, or an examination of equivalent standard from another Board. Copies of all relevant documentation, together with details of all the items to be performed, and the written essay, with copies of the full scores on which it is based, should be forwarded to the College's Director of Studies for approval one month before formal entry.

The examination will consist of a Recital, Transposition Exercise, Discussion with the Examiner and an Essay.

### **Recital**

Candidates are required to perform an own choice programme showing contrast of style and period at Fellowship level of difficulty. The length of the recital should be approximately 35 minutes. Credit will be given for the quality of choice of each item and the compilation and presentation of the programme as a whole.

It is permissible for candidates to assist their performances by using pre-sequenced tracks, provided they are the candidates' own pre-recorded work. If this option is used, it will not be necessary to provide the examiner with a full score; typical Electronic Keyboard scores (treble clef and chord symbols) will be acceptable.

### **Transposition Exercise**

The candidate will be required to transpose an exercise of Grade 8 standard either up or down a tone or up a perfect fifth.

### **Discussion with the Examiner**

Discussion of the candidate's music making activities, compositions and presentation skills and the written essay.

### **Analytical Commentary Essay**

A written analytical commentary of approximately 3500 words of continuous prose, based on all the items from the Recital programme should be forwarded to the College's Director of Studies by email, one month before formal entry. Scanned copies of the scores of the chosen items must accompany the essay.

### **Marks**

Marks are not allocated for fellowship diploma examinations. A detailed examiner's report will be provided and the examination marked as successful or unsuccessful.

## **MEDAL EXAMINATIONS**

Examinations for Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals are held in most subjects. Details of requirements are as follows:

### **Initial Bronze**

- Two solos from the Grade 1 List
- One solo own choice of similar standard

### **Junior Bronze**

- Two solos from the Grade 3 List
- One solo own choice of similar standard

### **Intermediate Bronze**

Two solos from the Grade 5 List  
One solo own choice of similar standard

**Intermediate Silver**

Two solos from the Grade 6 List  
One solo own choice of similar standard

**Intermediate Gold**

Two solos from the Grade 7 List  
One solo own choice of similar standard

**Senior Bronze**

Two solos from the Grade 8 List  
One solo own choice of similar standard

**Senior Silver**

Two solos from the Associate List  
One solo own choice of similar standard

**Senior Gold**

Two solos from the Licentiate List  
One solo own choice of a similar standard

Marks:

Marks are awarded as follows:

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Listed Solos       | 60 |
| Own Choice Solo    | 20 |
| General Impression | 20 |

The pass mark is 80. No award of Honours or Distinction is made in the Medal Division but a high standard of performance is expected.





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