



NATIONAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC AND ARTS
LONDON



syllabus

POPULAR PIANO



NATIONAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC, LONDON
GRADE, MEDAL & DIPLOMA EXAMINATIONS IN
POPULAR PIANO PERFORMANCE BY VIDEO SUBMISSION

GRADE A

Scales

10 MARKS

Majors C, G and F

One Octave, ascending and descending, hands separately

Solos

Two contrasting solos from the list below

AND one own choice solo of similar standard.

90 MARKS (30+30+30)

Love Me Tender from The Complete Piano Player Book 1 (Wise)

Mary's Boy Child

I'd Like to teach the World to Sing

Streets of London

Old Macdonald

Scarlet Ribbons

GRADE B

Scales

10 MARKS

Majors C, G D and F

One Octave, ascending and descending, hands together

Solos

Two contrasting solos from the list below

AND one own choice solo of similar standard.

90 MARKS (30+30+30)

Solo List

Annie's Song From the Complete Piano Player, Book 1

Super Trouper (Wise)

Singing in the Rain

Danny Boy From the Complete Piano Player, Book 2

Let him Go, Let him Tarry

Wooden Heart

Puff the Magic Dragon

Two-Handed Blues Microjazz Collection 1

Stairway

Struttin'

GRADE 1

Scales

10 marks

Majors C, G D and F

Two Octaves, similar motion, hands together

Solos

Two contrasting solos from the list below

AND one own choice solo of similar standard.

90 marks (30+30+30)

Solo List

Strangers in the Night	From the Complete Piano Player, Book 1	Wise
A Hard Day's Night		
Laughing Samba		
Under the Bridges of Paris		
My Own True Love		
Ragtime	Microjazz Collection 1	B&H
Country Ballad		
Tut Tuttin'		
Walking Together		
Tram Stop		
Cowboy Song		
A Day in Majorca		
Riviera		

GRADE 2

Scales

10 marks

Any 3 Majors chosen from A, F, B flat or E flat
Two Octaves, similar motion, hands together

Solos

Two contrasting solos from the list below

AND one own choice solo of similar standard.

90 marks (30+30+30)

Solo List

The Winner Takes it All	From the Complete Piano Player, Book 2	
Wise		
Take me Home, Country Roads		
By the Time I get to Phoenix		
Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer		
Bright Eyes		
Let it Be		
Blues No 1	Microjazz Collection 2	B&H
Get in Step		
Intercity Stomp		
Reggae		
Disco Drive		

GRADE 3

Scales and Arpeggios

10 MARKS

Any two major scales and any two minor scales chosen from the list below; two octaves, similar motion, hand together.

Majors: G, A, B, B flat, D, E, F, E flat, A flat, D flat

Minors B, C sharp, D, E, F sharp, G sharp

Minor scales may be in harmonic or melodic form

Three solos chosen from the list below. The third solo may be a piece of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard. **90 marks** (30+30+30)

Solo List

Spanish Eyes from *The Complete Piano*
Player, Book 3 (Wise)
Smile
Blue Moon
Over the Rainbow
Imagine
Yellow Submarine

When the Saints from *Jazz and Blues Style File*
(Chester)
OR
St Louis Blues

Bare Necessities from *Disney at the Piano* (Hal
Leonard)
OR
Mickey Mouse March

Christopher Norton: Chant from *Microjazz 2* (Boosey &
Hawkes)
OR Coconut Rag

Grade 4

Scales and Arpeggios 10 marks

Any 2 major scales + any 2 minor scales + one major arpeggio from the lists for this grade.

Major scales, two octaves, similar and contrary motion

Minor (harmonic or melodic) scales, two octaves, similar motion

Arpeggios, in the major keys only, hands separately

Either of the following groups:

Group 1: Major A, E flat, A flat and D flat Minor C, F sharp and C sharp

Group 2: Major A, E, B flat and E flat Minor F, F sharp and B flat

Solos 90 marks (30+30+30)

Two contrasting solos from the list below AND One own choice solo of similar standard

Solo List

Lawrence of Arabia	from The Complete Piano Player, Book 3 Wise
Irish Washerwoman	
Green Leaves of Summer	from The Complete Piano Player,
Book 4 Wise	
My Way	
Peacherine Rag	
Don't Cry for Me, Argentina	
Freeway	from Rhythm and Rag, Associated Board
La Valse	
On the Run	
Picnic Piece	from Microjazz 2 B&H
Blues Lullaby	
Play it Again	
Tiger Blues	

GRADE 5**Scales and Arpeggios****10 marks**

Scales in three octaves, similar motion;
of E major, B major and C sharp (melodic or harmonic) minor

OR

of E flat major, A flat major and C (melodic or harmonic) minor.

Arpeggios, in two octaves, similar motion
of E major, B major and C sharp minor

OR

of E flat major, A flat major and C minor.

Chromatic scale from C, each hand separately, three octaves

Three solos chosen from the list below. The third solo may be a piece of the candidate's own choice of a similar standard. **90 marks** (30+30+30)

Solo List

Laura	from <i>The Complete Piano Player, Book</i>
4/5 (Wise)	
Evergreen	
Blue Moon	
The 59 th Bridge Song	
The Entertainer	
Theme from ET	
Ballade for Adeline	
Colours of the Wind	Disney at the Piano (Hal Leonard)
The Time of your Life	
Take the "A" Train	Jazz & Blues Style File (Chester)

Song for my Father
 Baroque and Roll
 Hoe Down
 Mechanics Rag
 Steam Train Blues

More Rhythm & Rag (ABRSM)

Microjazz III (B&H)

Grade 6

Scales and Arpeggios

10 marks

Upon entry, the candidate will be advised which scales, from their chosen group, are to be recorded from this list:

Major and harmonic minor scales in three octaves, similar motion; Two octaves, contrary motion. Melodic minor scales, similar motion only Arpeggios in three octaves, similar motion; two octaves, contrary motion.

Chromatic scale, from any note, three octaves, similar motion

One of the following groups:

Group 1: Major and relative minors of G and D flat

Group 2: Major and relative minors of D and A flat

Group 3: Major and relative minors of A and E flat Solos

Two contrasting solos from the list below

30+30 marks

AND One own choice solo of similar standard

30 marks

Solo List

Fine and Mellow

from Jazz and Blues Style File Chester

Lullaby of Birdland (Chester)

Take Five

from The Complete Piano Player Style Book Wise

James Bond Theme

Maria Elena

Diagon Alley from Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone Nimbus 2000 (Warner)

The Lion Sleeps Tonight from Favourite Listening for Piano Solo (Warner)

Main Theme from The Belles of St Trinian's from Film Music for Solo Piano (Chester)

March of the Siamese Children from Rodgers and Hammerstein at the Piano (Williamson)

You'll Never Walk Alone

Rainy Day Rag From Rhythm and Rag (Associated Board)

Beguine From Microjazz II

Mongoose Crawl (Associated Board)

Argentijnse Tango From Melodie en Rhythme (Music Sale)

Slow Foxtrot

Stardust from Popular Piano Solos, Book 5 (Wise)

The Dream of Olwen Theme

(Wright)

Grade 7

Scales and Arpeggios

10 marks

Upon entry, the candidate will be advised which scales, from their chosen group, are to be recorded from this list:

Major scales in four octaves, similar motion, in 8ths and 3rds; two octaves, contrary motion, in octaves only; one octave, similar motion, in double 8ths

Harmonic minor scales, four octaves, similar motion, in 8ths; two octaves, contrary motion, in 8ths; one octave, similar motion, in double 8ths

Arpeggios with inversions, three octaves, similar motion; root position only; two octaves, contrary motion Any one of the following groups:

Group 1: Major C and E flat; Minor C and B

Group 2: Major B flat and F sharp; Minor F and F sharp

Group 3: Major E flat and F sharp Minor G and C sharp

Solos

90 marks (30+30+30)

Two contrasting solos from the list below AND One own choice solo of similar standard

Solo List

Maple Leaf Rag	from Jazz and Blues Style File (Chester)
Honky Tonk Train Blues	
I Finally Found Someone	from Favourite Easy Listening for Piano (Warner)
Over The Rainbow	
Didn't We Almost Have It All Theme	
Somewhere in Time	from Film Music for Solo Piano (Chester)
Nola	from The Complete Piano Style Book (Wise)
The Easy Winners	(Chappell)
Peacherie Rag	
Palm Leaf Rag	
Fluffy's Harp From Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	(Warner)
Hedwig's Theme	
Voldemort	
Some Enchanted Evening	from Rodgers and Hammerstein at the Piano
(Williamson) Barbed Wire Blues	from Microjazz II (Boosey & Hawkes)
Boogie	
Spring Song	
Boogie On Down	from Rhythm and Rag (Associated Board)
Bread and Butter	from More Rhythm and Rag (Associated Board)
You and Me	from Rhythm and Rag
(Associated Board)	
March of the Hoodlums From Hoagy Carmichael Centennial Collection	(Hal Leonard)
Bach Gammon from The Piano Solos of Richard Clayderman Anthology	(AMSCO)
Triste Coeur	
La Vraie Musique de l'Amour	
Theme from The Glass Mountain	

Grade 8

Scales and Arpeggios

25 marks

Upon entry, the candidate will be advised which scales, are to be recorded from this list:

Major and relative minor scales up to and including five sharps and five flats; four 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, four octaves, similar motion; two octaves, contrary motion, in double 8ths Arpeggios with inversions, three octaves, similar motion; root position only, two octaves, contrary motion.

Dominant 7th arpeggios in the keys of D, B flat, E and E flat, root position only

Recital

100 marks

To record a prepared programme of five contrasting pieces. Four of the pieces performed must be selected from the list below, the fifth is to be a piece chosen by the candidate of a similar standard.

Separate Lives	from Favourite Easy Listening for Piano (Warner)
Barbaric	from Hoagy Carmichael Centennial Collection (Hal Leonard)
Cosmics	
Chronicle Scherzo (Citizen Kane)	from Film Music for Solo Piano (Chester)
The Heart Takes Pleasure	First Cascades Rag Scott Joplin
Hungarian Stomp	from Microjazz II (Boosey & Hawkes)
Love Song	
Theme from The Warsaw Concerto	(Prowse)
Theme from The Cornish Rhapsody	
Concerto des Etoiles	from The Piano Solos of Richard Clayderman Anthology (AMSCO)
Feelings	
Le Voyage dans la Nuit	
Monti: Czardas (No 1)	(Ricordi)
Theme from The London Fantasia	Richardson (Wright)

DipNCM

This diploma is available in all practical subjects. Candidates in musical subjects must have passed Grade 8 or Senior Bronze Medal examination – or examinations of equivalent standard.

The examination consists of a Recital of 10 minutes in length minimum and programme notes.

Recital

100 marks (20+20+20+20+20)

Candidates are required to record a programme of five items, showing contrast of style and period. A high standard of performance is required.

To record a programme of five own choice contrasting 'light' solos. The programme must be submitted by email to the College for approval before official entry is made.

The items may include:

- An original composition by the candidate;
- An item performed in ensemble; eg. string quartet, piano trio, vocal quartet, wind ensemble – the total number of performers not exceeding four.

Performers, other than the candidate, will be allowed in the Examination Room only during the recording of the piece in which they are taking part.

Credit will be given for the quality of choice of each item and the compilation and presentation of the programme as a whole.

Programme Notes

50 marks

The candidate must include with their submission a set of ORIGINAL programme notes outlining the background of the music chosen for the recital and their personal impressions of the challenges the music posed for them as a performer.

Marks

Maximum marks are 150; the pass mark is 100.

Associate Diploma (ANCM)

The pass mark for Performer, is 100 out of a possible 150 marks.

Scales and Arpeggios

25 marks

Upon entry, the candidate will be advised which scales, are to be recorded from this list:

Candidates must be prepared to play any major or minor scale in similar motion, four octaves in 8ths and 3rds; major and harmonic minor in contrary motion, and from the 3rd; major and harmonic minor, similar motion, two octaves, in double 8ths and double 3rds. Arpeggios with inversions, three octaves, similar motion, root position only, two octaves, contrary motion; dominant and diminished 7ths, root position only, in all keys.

Solos

100 marks (20+20+20+20+20)

To record a programme of five own choice contrasting 'light' solos. The programme must be submitted by email to the College for approval before official entry is made.

Programme Notes

25 marks

The candidate must include with their submission a set of ORIGINAL programme notes outlining the background of the music chosen for the recital and their personal impressions of the challenges the music posed for them as a performer.

Licentiate Diploma (LNCM)

Candidates must have previously passed the Associate or other examination of similar standard.

Recital

100 marks

To record a recital programme of 20-25 minutes duration consisting of contrasting 'light' solos chosen by the candidate. The programme must be submitted by email to the College for approval before official entry is made.

Programme Notes

50 marks

The candidate must include with their submission a set of detailed, ORIGINAL programme notes outlining the background of the music chosen for the recital; their personal impressions of the music and detailing the challenges the music posed for them as a performer.

Fellowship Diploma (FNCM)

Candidates must have previously passed the Licentiate or examination of similar standard. Candidates are required to record a programme of 35-40 minutes' duration. The items selected should show a contrast of style, and one item must be performed from memory. Credit will be given for the quality of choice of each piece and for the construction, compilation and presentation of the programme as a whole. The proposed Fellowship programme must be submitted to the College for approval before official entry is made. The Examiner's Report will take the form of a critique. No marks as such will be awarded, and the result will be notified as successful or unsuccessful.

MEDAL EXAMINATIONS

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

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

- Three solos of ANCM standard

Senior Gold

Three solos of LNCM standard

One solo should be played from memory

Marks

Marks are awarded as follows:

Solos	30+30+30
General Impression	10

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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