



conservatory
C A N A D A™

Classical Piano Syllabus Rules & Regulations

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INTRODUCTION

This syllabus serves as the requirements to prepare students for graded Conservatory Canada examinations in Classical Piano. It is a separate program from our Contemporary Idioms™ Piano syllabus, and long time users will notice that it is strongly based on CC's original piano syllabus published in 1999, upon the merger between the Western Ontario Conservatory of Music and the Western Board.

Conservatory Canada examination programs have long provided a nationwide system for evaluation and accreditation through core programs to encourage and assess broadly based musicianship. As well, there are innovative features (such as Mini-Lessons, Recital Assessments, Keyboard Skills (Harmonization) and Background Questions (Viva Voce) that add flexibility, educational value, while fostering meaningful and friendly interaction between teacher, students and their families, and examiner.

While this syllabus is not intended as an absolute curriculum (that's the prerogative of the teacher), it is designed to give guidance and support to teachers and students for understanding and performance of classical styles of music that remain relevant to this day.

The clearly defined goals of an examination encourage comprehensive skill development, and offer an arms-length assessment of progress against a national standard. While the examination forms a valuable part of a total picture of musical training, it should not be considered as the entire focus of music studies. Teachers are urged to explore a wide variety of repertoire in lessons throughout the year, and then to choose from these, the pieces that will be performed in the examination. Conservatory Canada believes that the practical examination must assess as broad a spectrum of skills and musicianship as possible. In addition to repertoire from various classical eras (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Post-Romantic, Modern), we devote significant focus to developing technical, aural, sight reading, and keyboard harmony skills. Students answer oral questions and are asked to demonstrate their knowledge throughout the assessment. Students trained in these areas will be prepared to address whatever musical challenges await them in later life with confidence.

Performance Pieces

Repertoire pieces have been chosen to give as broad a representative sampling of keyboard music as possible, while also representing a vast cross-section of modern materials from many Canadian composers. Conservatory Canada's original "New Millennium Series" repertoire albums will continue to be used as the de facto music compilation album for the foreseeable future. Although the way in which the music is categorized within the legacy

albums will not change, (List A, List B, List C, Studies) our repertoire lists will be updated to provide new relevant groupings, allowing students greater freedom in choosing their performance pieces for an exam. Please refer to the new repertoire lists (contained within the syllabus at each grade level) for definitive information on which piece is to be used in which repertoire Group.

Students who have favourite repertoire of their own not on our current list may gain approval to use their music for Examinations by submitting an Irregular List Approval request. Please email our office, (registrar@conservatorycanada.ca) providing the score and requesting which grade level and Group you are looking to use the piece for. It will be appraised quickly at no cost and an approval letter will be issued to present to the examiner at the examination.

In addition to the Classical repertoire lists, the current Contemporary Syllabus Repertoire List selections (available on our website [here](#) and used for Contemporary Idioms exams) can also be used on Classical exams as Modern Group pieces. These pieces are to be used at the same grade as the level used for Contemporary Idioms exams. This list is updated regularly to add new music as it becomes available, as well as provide updated publisher information.

One extra bonus mark is given to students who include a piece by a Canadian composer on their examination program. These pieces are highlighted on our repertoire lists. The bonus mark is an extra mark given, while still keeping the examination marked out of 100.

Ornamentation in Baroque music is encouraged, especially on repeats, which are only allowed for Baroque music from Grades 1 - 6. Although these are "Classical" exams, there is ample room for students to choose contemporary repertoire. They are encouraged to edit arrangements of pop stylings, with editing guidelines outlined in the syllabus.

To encourage memorization, separate marks for memory are awarded for Grades 1 - 9.

Technique

Technical requirements, including the sequence of keys, are carefully paced to help prepare for repertoire demands as well as reinforce relationships between major and minor scales. Keys used simply add one sharp and one flat at each successive level, with a more broad review beginning at Grade 7. A small sampling of blues, pentatonic, and whole tone scales has been included at the lower grade levels. We have sought to balance training needs against the realities of time limitations in the lesson and varying student commitment. We stress that workmanship through accuracy and good tone take precedence over developing velocity in the assessment.

Sight Reading

Sight reading follows our former model with rhythmic clapping as well as playing a short piano passage at sight. Guidelines are given in the syllabus.

Aural Skills

Ear Training tests also follow our former model, however the listening test for cadence identification has been removed. Guidelines are given in the syllabus.

Keyboard Skills

Keyboard skills consists of Chord Progressions and Harmonizing, as we have removed the Transposition requirement. In 2014, as the former Keyboard Harmony and Transposition workbook by Steven Fielder became less available, we began endorsing the "Keyboard Harmony" series developed and published by Debra Wanless, with Caroline Bering also authoring. We have revised our requirements slightly to reflect the content of this three level series. Students are encouraged to work with this new series as follows:

Grades 4 & 5	Introductory Level 1
Grade 6	Intermediate Level 2
Grades 7 & 8	Advancing Level 3

We will be developing separate materials for Grades 9, 10 and ACCM (Teacher's) to be posted on our website. Students should also be able to use examples from the Steven Fielder workbook, if they have access to it. New copies can still be obtained through Long & McQuade stores.

Scripted chord progressions remain a part of the exam assessment and we have added the use of chord symbols above the staff to aid students in choosing chords to harmonize melodies. Illustrative examples can be found in each grade of the syllabus. Grades 4 and 5 employ the use of adding chords in the left hand (under a right hand single note melody, much like lead sheet reading), while starting at Grade 6, we employ "keyboard" style, with three note chords in the right hand, with single note bass tones in the left hand.

Background Information (formerly Viva Voce)

Students are required to orally answer questions about pieces, titles, terms, and composers as they are found in their repertoire pieces. Although it is recommended study, we will no longer be asking questions related to the formal structures or harmonic analysis with identification of modulations and key relationships. Students are required to provide relevant biographical background information on any composer starting at Grade 4.

To support this syllabus, new examples for Sight Reading, Ear Training and Keyboard Harmony, as well as other resources will be available through the E-Sharp Club on our website later in 2018. The E-Sharp Club is an annual \$20 membership which also grants access to practice theory papers as well as support material for our other core syllabi, including Contemporary Idioms Piano.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

These Regulations govern the use of Conservatory Canada practical syllabi for both Classical and Contemporary Idioms streams.

Conservatory Canada offers practical Classical Examinations in:

Piano	Violin	Trumpet	Flute
Organ (pipe)	Viola	French horn	Clarinet
Guitar	Cello	Trombone	Saxophone
Voice		Tuba	

Conservatory Canada offers practical Contemporary Idioms Examinations in:

Piano
Voice
Guitar

Practical Examinations

The Conservatory conducts three practical examination sessions during each academic year. These examinations include most instruments and voice, and are held at centres throughout Canada (new centres may be established by arrangement with the Conservatory):

We also offer eExams—examinations done online whenever the student is ready. We have many eExam centres set up across the country. Please contact our office for more details on this convenient option.

Winter Session	First three weeks in February
Spring Session	Entire month of June
Summer Session	Middle two weeks in August

Applicants should consult the website for the deadline date of the specific session for which they wish to apply.

The Conservatory offers an online application service. Also available in many centres is an online scheduling service so students are able to choose their own day and time of examination. In other centres, we will make every effort to schedule examinations around legitimate events, such as school trips or school examinations, provided notice is given **at the time of the application**. However, because of constraints in reserving facilities and examiners, **this cannot be guaranteed, and by submitting an application, the candidate agrees to appear for the examination as scheduled**. Candidates entering the June examinations must understand that it is not always possible to schedule music examinations around school examinations.

Candidates will be given at least two weeks notice of the date, time and place of the practical examination. Under no circumstances are candidates or their teachers permitted to change dates or times of the scheduled examination. **Examiners are instructed not to make schedule changes unless such changes have been authorized by the Office of the Registrar.**

Applications are to be made online at our website www.conservatorycanada.ca

Applications must be made by midnight on the deadline date. Late applications will be charged a \$30 penalty.

Each partial or supplemental examination requires a new application.

Centres

Practical examinations are conducted by fully qualified examiners appointed by the Conservatory in those centres where the number of applicants is deemed sufficient. The Conservatory reserves the right to defer examinations until a later session in any centre where the enrollment does not warrant the visit of an examiner, or to require the candidate to travel to the nearest viable centre. The best facilities available will be provided for examinations in centres as close as possible to the candidate's hometown. Candidates should plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before the examination is scheduled to begin.

Appeals

Queries or appeals concerning the examination procedure must be filed in writing with the Office of the Registrar within 10 days of the completion of the examination.

Cancellations

Notice of withdrawal, for any reason, must be forwarded to the Office of the Registrar. Consult the current application form for refund policy regarding cancellations by the candidate before the scheduled date of the examination. No refund will be considered for notice of cancellation, for whatever reason, received after the scheduled date of the examination.

Marking Standards

The Conservatory's standard of marking is as follows:

First-Class Honours with Distinction	90–100 marks
First-Class Honours	80–89 marks
Honours	70–79 marks
Pass	60–69 marks
Insufficient to Pass	below 60 marks

Results

Examination marks may be viewed online with the appropriate candidate number. Under no condition will examination results be released verbally, either in person or by telephone. Because examination marks are confidential to the teacher and candidate, results CANNOT be released to any other person.

Certificates

Certificates are awarded for all practical, theory and history examinations upon the successful completion of all requirements. For practical examinations, certificates will be issued subject to the completion of theory/history co-requisite requirements listed for each grade. Certificates are issued electronically, and can be accessed through the Student portal.

Visually Impaired or Physically Challenged Candidates

The Conservatory will make every effort to make special provisions for visually impaired or physically challenged candidates. For details, please contact the Office of the Registrar *before the closing date for applications*.

REGULATIONS FOR PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS

Conduct of Practical Examinations

Only the Examiner, or Examiners, and the candidate will be permitted to be present in the examination room during the progress of the examination, except for the eExams, where a facilitator will be present. Where collaborative pianists are needed, they will be permitted in the room only for those portions for which their services are required.

Copyright and Photocopying

Candidates must provide the Examiner with an original printed copy of all pieces to be performed, especially those not memorized. In accordance with copyright law, photocopies of musical scores (for use by the candidate or accompanist or the examiner) are NOT permitted in the examination room unless the candidate can present written authorization from the copyright holder, or proof of online purchase from a source licensed to sell the score. Downloaded scores that belong to the public domain may be used, as long as proof is provided illustrating that the score was obtained from IMSLP.

If illegal photocopies are used in the examination room, with no legal original copy present, the student will not be examined. It is illegal to photocopy an original score in order to obtain a second copy to give an Examiner, where both the student and Examiner require a score. In cases where only one original is available, Examiners can ask to see the score both in advance and / or after the performance, or look over the shoulder of the candidate while they perform. **Students risk forfeiting their examination if illegal photocopies are used.**

Photocopies for page turns are only permitted if written permission is obtained from the publisher. Conservatory Canada grants permission for the photocopying of one page per piece, for any music published in its New Millennium Series Piano or Voice, or the Canadian Contemporary Repertoire Series. Conservatory Canada cannot grant permission for copies to be used for the purposes of page turning for any other publications. These copies will need to be destroyed if found in the examination room.

Candidates must list, in the appropriate place on the examination notice, all repertoire to be performed in the examination. This list must be given to the examiner at the start of the examination.

Irregular Lists

Any piece not found in the list pieces for the particular grade in this syllabus constitutes an irregular list piece.

The score must be provided to the Registrar (registrar@conservatorycanada.ca), including full details of the piece along with the requested Grade level and repertoire sub-section. Approvals are free of charge and candidates will be furnished with an approval letter to present to the examiner at the examination. Approvals must reach the Registrar's Office within 30 days of the Examination date to be considered.

NOTE: It is permissible, without special approval, to include one piece from a higher grade in this syllabus.

Partial Examinations

Candidates at grades 7 and higher may choose to take the examination in two parts, each at a different session. These partial examinations are to be divided into two reasonably equal parts, each part comprising approximately 50% of the marks allotted for that grade (see MARKS at the end of each grade). The first part must contain no less than 44% and no more than 56% of the requirements. The second part must be completed within twelve months following the first sitting, and must include all aspects not previously examined in the first part.

The division of the examination is left to the discretion of the teacher and candidate. Sections given a composite mark (e.g. the complete technical requirements or the complete aural tests) may not be subdivided and must be

completed at one sitting. At each sitting the list presented to the Examiner must contain details of all components that are to be heard. Each section as it is presented will be awarded a mark. Candidates must be prepared to answer background questions on any of the pieces they are playing in that partial (not for pieces from the past partial or future partial).

No portion of a partial examination completed during the first sitting may be repeated for the second sitting in order to attempt to improve the mark already awarded.

The total mark at the conclusion of the second sitting determines the standing of the candidate, and there can be no recourse to adjustment of this final mark. If the results of the first sitting are low, then it might be to the advantage of the candidate to start over.

Candidates who choose to play a partial examination will not be eligible for either scholarships or medals.

Theory & History Co-Requisites for Practical Certificates

Theoretical subjects are required for practical Certificates for all instruments and voice beginning at Grade 5. Certificates are issued only when the required Theory and/or History co-requisites are completed.

For details concerning regulations and requirements for all Rudiments/Theory and History examinations, candidates should consult the *Theory & History Syllabus (2014)*.

Mini-Lessons

Mini-lessons provide a unique learning opportunity for students at all grades and, at the same time, serve as an informal, private workshop for the teacher. It is an optional 15-minute private lesson, with the teacher present, to be given by the examiner immediately following the practical examination. The mini-lesson will be used to explore ways to overcome particular technical difficulties or investigate ideas concerning musicianship and style to help the candidate improve. Mini-lessons are tailored to the needs of the student, and to this end, the teacher and/or the student may wish to suggest to the examiner what they would like to cover in the mini-lesson. Candidates wishing to register for a mini-lesson should indicate this in the appropriate place on the examination application.