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June 2020 Online Practical Exams

Frequently Asked Questions

Please see our [News article](#) regarding ideas for improving audio quality within Zoom, as well as diagnosing internet connections. This FAQ may be revised over the coming weeks, please check back frequently.

How will the sight reading, keyboard skills and lead sheets be shown to students during the online exam?

We will not have the capacity to email these to parents individually ahead of time, therefore they will be shared by examiners with students through screen-sharing on Zoom. Students may login to the meeting using a second device like a tablet to view the exercise, or the examiner may share a pdf at the beginning of the exam (in the chat box) to be printed for viewing. In cases where neither of these options are possible, the laptop computer used to connect should be held in front of the student for viewing and playing the examples. We encourage teachers to work with students to find creative solutions to this.

How will backing tracks be broadcast for students playing Contemporary Idioms exams?

Just like we are advising for Voice students, students and parents will be responsible for broadcasting backing tracks for students to play along with. The Examiner should be able to hear both the backing track and the student. Teachers should work with students in advance to ensure that the equipment used is suitable.

If students are deferring their exam, when can they defer it to?

Anytime in the next year, until June 30, 2021. Students deferring can choose to have their exam heard online from their home any time, using Zoom or Internet Midi (usual eExam format). Once social distancing restrictions are safely lifted, we can then entertain requests for in-person exams where regional examiners are available, or to hear students from their teacher's studios. We will likely not be able to send a visiting examiner to any centre before June 2021. We have mostly been relying on regional examiners for our Winter February exams for the past number of years.

Can students switch to a flex exam, instead of doing the exam in June?

We are still running regular eExams, scheduled on a flex basis. These exams are only to be held in student's homes, using Zoom, until distancing restrictions are safely eased. If students have indicated that they are deferring their June exam, they can switch to a flex exam at any time. Students who have the Internet Midi software can use it for eExams, as long as they have it working in their own home. Students cannot take eExams from their teacher's studio until social distancing restrictions have been eased. CC is a non-essential business and cannot appear to be operating with face-to-face contact in any province.

Can students wait and see if social distancing is eased for June?

We are recommending anyone who wants to take their exam in June prepare to take it online from their home. We require significant time to schedule online June exams, and cannot guarantee any alternate arrangements for June exams should restrictions be eased by that time. There is no guarantee that students choosing to defer can be heard by an in-person examiner within the next year. If it becomes realistic, we will be open to that option, when the time comes. Similarly, we make no guarantee that we can send a live examiner to any centre for our Summer August session.

Can we use an online platform other than Zoom for online exams?

Examiners will be trained to use Zoom only and will not be able to accommodate other platforms. We are recommending Zoom be used for all online exams, due to the ability to work with audio settings, ease of connection and the option for screen sharing tests. The audio settings in FaceTime, Skype and others are nonexistent and they do not offer a way to share skills tests. Please see our technical [article](#) on working with audio settings in Zoom. If students have reservations about using Zoom, they should consider deferring their exam.

What measures will be taken to use Zoom securely?

Students will be given a meeting link in advance to attend their exam. They will be required to enter a password to access the meeting and will be placed in a "waiting room" to be admitted by the examiner at the appropriate time. This will ensure that nobody enters the exam meeting accidentally.

Can teachers join mini-lessons?

Students registering for mini-lessons will have their mini-lesson conducted immediately following their online exam, just as if they were in-person. Students can provide their teacher with the

meeting link where they can be admitted by the examiner from the “waiting room” at the appropriate time.

How will students share repertoire lists and copies of scores with examiners?

To assist the examiner, students are encouraged to have their repertoire lists of everything they are playing copied to their devices clipboard to be pasted into the chat box for the examiner at the start of the exam. This information should also include sections to be examined for partial exam candidates, as well as if students taking CI piano exams are performing classical instead of CI skills. Teachers should work with students to make sure they are prepared with this information. Students not sharing this information with examiners will still have their exam heard.

Sharing of musical scores will not be required for these exams. Examiners will be trained to assess without seeing scores. However, teachers may prepare students to share a pdf of certain scores that they feel the examiner should see. This pdf can be shared in the chat box with the examiner at the start of the exam. Examiners may or may not choose to view shared scores.

What happens if there is a technical glitch and we cannot connect with the examiner?

Students will be asked to supply a cell number for texting, which will be shared with the examiner, along with a contact email address. Students will also receive a cell phone number to contact the examiner by text, in the event of a technical issue. All other contact with the examiner by text or email is discouraged.