



conservatory
C A N A D A™

Guitar Repertoire Digital Badges

Syllabus

In keeping with our mission to foster musical talent and potential, Conservatory Canada Badges are a fun new way for students to measure their progress and achievement, in a way that is recreational, inclusive and accessible. Building on our experience with eExams, the submission process for digital badges is entirely online, and relies on students' submitted recordings, rather than live performances. The commitment required for earning a digital badge is more flexible and open-ended than the traditional exam, allowing students more control over the process.

The new digital badges are designed to give all students the opportunity to measure their success and get unbiased feedback on their music-making. It is not meant to replace the traditional certificate exam, but can serve as a stepping-stone to that end if they choose. The badges are intended to motivate students and instill in them a sense of accomplishment and pride.

Earning a digital badge may benefit students in the following ways:

- Provides a performance goal to work toward.
- Provides expert feedback on repertoire without the pressure of live performance.
- Allows students to work at their own pace - students can prepare individual pieces one-at-a-time.
- Students have greater control and creative freedom in expressing their musicianship.
- Students can submit at any time of the year, whenever they are ready.
- Allows greater accessibility for students who are unable to commit to every aspect of a certificate exam.
- Anyone can participate regardless of geographical location.
- Provides an opportunity for busy students to participate in a performance/assessment goal.
- May inspire students to complete a certificate exam or recital assessment later, or for the first time.
- Provides an opportunity for students to archive their progress for themselves.

Featuring repertoire only (no skills), this 'Repertoire Badge' for Guitar is offered at Levels 1-8 (commensurate with our existing certificate syllabi standard), with plans to add other themes (including skills, composition and ensembles) at a later time.

Requirements At A Glance:

- Students register for a Guitar Repertoire Badge at their chosen Level in their student portal, online. (Fees apply, students may enter at any level).
- Students video/audio record three pieces of their choice separately, at any time.
- When ready for submission, recordings are uploaded to a video-hosting service (YouTube, Vimeo) or any other link-sharing service (Google, WeTransfer, Microsoft).
- Links to final recordings are submitted in the student's CC portal where they registered for the Badge (three links to be submitted at once in the portal.)
- An examiner provides concise, meaningful feedback offering encouragement, critique, and praise.
- If a passing standard is achieved, the badge is digitally issued (with either a Gold, Silver or Bronze standing).
- If a passing standard is not achieved, students can resubmit any or all of the videos for a fee.

Guide To Choosing Repertoire:

- Students are encouraged to choose music that is meaningful to them and fun to play.
- Repertoire can be chosen from the same grade/level of the Contemporary Idioms or Classical Guitar syllabus lists. **The music can be any mix of style or genre.**
- Students can also use any music not on our lists, provided that it is at the grade/level being attempted. Special approval for music not on our lists is NOT required for digital badges. Teachers are encouraged to use examples from our syllabus as a guide, and they have complete control over what guitar repertoire is best to use for their students at any level. Teachers may also choose to rely on an opinion from another teacher. There is no penalty on the assessment for using repertoire that may not be at the level being attempted.
- As a guideline, one of the three pieces may be of any grade/level higher, with two of the pieces needing to be at or near the same grade/level being attempted. All pieces should be at least at the grade/level being attempted. Again, we trust teachers to decide on this.
- Students may not use the same piece on more than one badge-level.
- Students will NOT need to produce a notated score, lead sheet, or chart of their music.
- The focus of this badge is on solo guitar playing, although guitar duets (including alternate parts played by a teacher) may be used. The assessment will focus on the student's part in the performance.
- Students may choose to sing along with their playing.

- Contemporary music can be edited to condense the length and to make the music more singable for a certain level.
- The songs may be the student's own compositions.

Notes On Recording:

- Rather than relying on live performance (such as in a traditional certificate exam), students must record their music using video and audio to be assessed for a badge.
- Music can be recorded whenever a student feels comfortable, and students may choose to record it multiple times before being satisfied. This process itself can help drive musical awareness and stimulate motivation to improve. Only the link to the final recording is uploaded to the CC portal.
- Each of the songs needs to be recorded separately, with a separate sharing link provided for each of the three pieces, once all three are completed.
- Recordings can take place in any suitable space, with or without the assistance of a parent, teacher or friend.
- Recording quality is important but not essential for students to participate. Very good quality recordings can be made with a smartphone, tablet or computer (using a built-in microphone and webcam). If an external microphone is available, it will likely create a better quality recording.
- Editing in the form of splicing, mixing audio/video tracks separately, and over-dubbing are not allowed.
- As part of the recording, students *may* choose to include a brief statement on camera following one of their performances that discusses any of the following (although this is not required):
 - Why they chose their music
 - What their music means to them
 - What technical strategies they were concentrating on while learning or performing the piece, what they learned about singing as a result of learning and performing the piece
 - What they hope to learn from the assessment process

How Performances Are Assessed:

- A CC examiner will view and listen to the recordings once three links have been provided, with results shared through the student's online portal.
- Helpful comments will be provided for all submissions. Comments will be encouraging and easy to understand, and may include specific suggestions on how to improve.
- Creativity in performance is welcome (using backing tracks) but assessment will focus solely on the music.
- If successful, a standing will be given using the following scale, influencing the colour and label of the badge:

- **BRONZE** - indicative of 60%-75% using our traditional marking standard
- **SILVER** - indicative of 76% - 85% using our traditional marking standard
- **GOLD** - indicative of 86%-100% using our traditional marking standard
- A numerical mark will not be given, only a standing.
- If the minimum performance standard has not been met on each piece, a 'Work in progress' label will be given to indicate which pieces should be improved, along with comments reflecting the next steps to be taken for success.
- Regardless of the standing they initially received, for a fee, students can re-record and resubmit their music (using the same or different pieces) to raise their standing. Students may resubmit any or all of their pieces. It is not recommended that students resubmit if they receive a GOLD standing.
- Digital badges can be displayed on any web platform, website or social media, shared, or printed.

Registration Fees

Level	Fee	Re-test Fee
Levels 1-3	\$49	\$24
Levels 4-6	\$59	\$29
Level 7-8	\$69	\$34