



## **INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE EXAMINATIONS**

St. Cecilia Examinations Intl. offers Instrumental Ensemble examinations throughout its international examination network. These examinations provide a formal opportunity for Orchestral and Chamber Music Directors/Conductors to enter their students for assessment and be rewarded with a grading as well as an individual certificate for each participant. Instrumental Ensemble examinations may be conducted with an audience present.

### **Requirements**

Orchestra/Ensemble Directors have complete discretion in choosing appropriate repertoire for their ensembles. St. Cecilia advises that the chosen pieces are within the technical and musical capabilities of the ensemble. Any combination of instruments may be utilised e.g. a percussion ensemble; string quartet; classical guitar ensemble; popular jazz/electronic groups; wind, brass, string orchestras; symphony orchestras etc.

### **Grade Levels**

There are eight grade levels available for Instrumental Ensemble assessment:

- Grade One: Kindergarten; Pre-School; Infant
- Grade Two: Lower Primary
- Grade Three: Upper Primary
- Grade Four: Lower Secondary
- Grade Five: Upper Secondary
- Grade Six: Advanced
- Grade Seven: Advanced Concert
- Grade Eight: Advanced Professional

## **Performance Timings**

Any number of items may be presented but minimum and maximum time restrictions must be observed for each level:

- Grade One: 8-10 minutes
- Grade Two: 10-20 minutes
- Grade Three: 12-25 minutes
- Grade Four: 15-30 minutes
- Grade Five: 15-35 minutes
- Grade Six: 20-40 minutes
- Grade Seven: 20-45 minutes
- Grade Eight: 30-60 minutes

## **Setting Up and Venue Requirements**

Venue hire, including appropriate insurance is the responsibility of the Instrumental group(s). Venues must be comfortable and adhere to health & safety regulations. The venue must be set up and ready for performances before the examiner arrives. A desk must be provided for the examiner and this should be placed in a central location of the venue in order for the examiner to easily see and hear the performances. Adequate lighting must be provided. Amplification may be incorporated into the performance for subtle enhancement only.

## **Assessment Criteria**

Performances will be assessed according to, but not restricted to, the following criteria:

- Choice of items including appropriate programming and timing
- Tonal balance
- Volume – including dynamics
- Clarity of sound and articulation
- Technical accuracy – intonation; timing; rhythm
- Performance and stage discipline
- Audience engagement

## **Written Programme**

The examiner must be provided with a written programme which clearly outlines the items to be performed. Items must include the composer's name and dates as well as some general information about each piece to be performed. Some background details on the Instrumental group should be included e.g. average age of the performers; the history of the group; past performances; public successes – *competitions, participation in local concerts, tours etc.* The programme may be enhanced with relevant photographs, diagrams or pictures.

## **Addressing the Audience**

Whilst not compulsory, the Conductor, Director or a designated group member may address the audience in order to introduce items and/or provide background details about the ensemble.

## **Marking System**

The examiner will award the ensemble with a percentage score. The following categories apply:

- 65% - 74%                      Pass
- 75% - 84%                      Pass with Merit
- 85% - 89%                      Pass with Distinction
- 90%-100%                      Pass with Higher Distinction

All ensemble members will receive an individual certificate which states the member's name, the name of the ensemble, the grade level and the result. The ensemble Conductor/Director will also receive a specialised certificate.

## **Entry Details 2109**

Entry may be made after first consulting the Administration of St Cecilia Examinations Tel: 1800 675 292 or Email: [info@st-cecilia.com.au](mailto:info@st-cecilia.com.au) An entry form must be completed for each Instrumental group, attached to which should be the names of each member as well as the ensemble conductor's/director's name. Entry forms are available from St. Cecilia.

## **Fees 2019**

Fees are calculated according to the number of ensemble members participating as well as the grade level chosen. The following fees are minimum fees for a group of 15 or fewer performers. Fees are in Australian Dollars and include GST.

- Grade One: \$160.00 (\$10 per additional performer)
- Grade Two: \$170.00 (\$10 per additional performer)
- Grade Three: \$180.00 (\$10 per additional performer)
- Grade Four: \$190.00 (\$10 per additional performer)
- Grade Five: \$200.00 (\$10 per additional performer)
- Grade Six: \$225.00 (\$10 per additional performer)
- Grade Seven: \$275.00 (\$10 per additional performer)
- Grade Eight: \$295.00 (\$10 per additional performer)

*Further details may be obtained by contacting St. Cecilia School of Music & Examinations Intl.*

- Tel: 1800 675 292
- Email: [info@st-cecilia.com.au](mailto:info@st-cecilia.com.au)
- Web: [www.st-cecilia.com.au](http://www.st-cecilia.com.au)
- Post: PO Box 938, Launceston, Tasmania 7250 Australia