

RECITAL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

St. Cecilia's First Recital Certificate and Advanced Recital Certificate examinations are available for all instruments and voice. The Recital Certificate allows students to present a full recital in a formal environment. Additional time is allocated for this examination allowing the student greater flexibility with programme choice.

An audience may be present but the hiring of venues including conditions of hire i.e. insurance, cleaning etc remains the responsibility of the teacher or candidate.

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS:

- **Four** items must be presented which reflect an interesting and balanced programme. A particular theme may be incorporated e.g. music of one composer; a reflection of a scene or mood; music from a particular country or culture. Imagination is encouraged.
- Items may be chosen from any recognized examination board syllabus but at least one item must be chosen from the St. Cecilia Grade syllabus. For the First Recital Certificate one item must be from the St. Cecilia Grade Five syllabus. For the Advanced Recital Certificate one item must be chosen from the St. Cecilia Grade Eight syllabus.
- Appropriate formal concert dress and accepted stage presentation and etiquette (bowing, audience acknowledgement etc) are also assessed. School uniform is usually not considered appropriate.
- An imaginatively set out written programme containing interesting and informative details on all the chosen performance pieces must be presented to the examiner. Relevant biographical details about the performer are appropriate. An accurate timing of each piece must also be indicated.
- Technical work (scales etc) is not a requirement for these examinations.
- The examination must fit within a time restriction.
 - *First Recital Certificate 20 – 25 minutes*
 - *Advanced Recital Certificate 25 – 30 minutes*
- It is acceptable to include more than one piece within an Item e.g. Item 1 *Waltz No. 4 AND Cradle Song No.6 from Album Leaves Op.124 (Schumann)*. If artistically appropriate, repeats may be observed.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT & HINTS TO PERFORMERS

- **The manner of dress.** As for a public performance. Performers who do not dress formally must accept their low assessment in this area. Attention to footwear should be considered. School uniforms are not usually considered appropriate. It is better to be over-dressed rather than under-dressed.
- **Confident and dignified stage presentation.** Performers should observe professional performers in action and endeavour to emulate good stage etiquette and presentation. Half-hearted bowing etc will attract few marks as will apologetic, immature and insecure stage manners. The performer may address the audience if relevant and appropriate.
- **An impressive performance.** Technical fluency is expected for a public concert/recital and audiences (examiners) are unsympathetic with second rate or unprepared presentations. All notes, rhythms, dynamics etc must be mastered perfectly. A musical and artistic rendition is expected even at the elementary levels. Performances from memory earn additional marks.
- **A smart programme.** The programme must be printed accurately with attention to correct grammar and spelling. Examiners will not accept amateurish presentations which imply very little care or effort. Proper use of computer programs to deliver a smart-looking and imaginative program is part of the assessment in this section.
- **Attitude.** The performer must maintain a dignified and controlled attitude throughout the entire performance. Disorganised, apologetic or uncontrolled performances will not be acceptable and will not constitute a pass standard.
- **Page turners & stage managers.** Performers are ultimately responsible for their entire performance including page turning and equipment usage. A stage manager and/or page tuner (who may be the teacher or parent) may assist in a professional and discreet manner. They must not address the examiner or audience. Stage managers and page tuners should be attired appropriately.
- **Accompanied items.** At least three of the four items must be accompanied for instruments where the chosen music includes a written accompaniment. These instruments are typically strings, woodwind, brass and singing. The accompanying instrument may not necessarily be restricted to piano. Guitar or small ensemble accompaniments are acceptable.