

Licentiate Diploma (Singing Teaching)

L.Dip.SCSM (Singing Teaching)

General Information

The Licentiate Diploma in Teaching of the St. Cecilia School of Music is a qualification which reflects a musician's ability to teach professionally in either (1) a private music teaching studio or (2) as a specialist peripatetic/itinerant teacher.

The Licentiate Diploma is the culmination of all grade examinations in both practice and theory of music. Holders of the L.Dip.SCSM (Teaching) are recognised as capable teachers with the ability to transfer up-to-date information and skills to students of all ages and levels.

Musicians who hold certain qualifications are exempt from various sections of this Diploma.

In preparing for the L.Dip.SCSM Teaching, candidates are advised to ensure that every aspect of the course is covered thoroughly. Information must be detailed and imaginative. Candidates must demonstrate a mature awareness of the principles of teaching as well as show knowledge of the most current trends in music education.

Successful candidates will be skilful musicians, confident, knowledgeable and communicative teachers.

Whilst not compulsory, candidates who have prior teaching experience will benefit from their practical understanding of the challenges associated with the profession. Candidates should attend lessons and observe professional teachers in action where possible. Evidence of this may be useful for the examiner and a letter of authority from a School of Private Music Teacher may be presented at the examination.

A successful Licentiate Diploma candidate receives a Licentiate Diploma Certificate from the St. Cecilia School of Music and is entitled to wear the St. Cecilia academic gown and hood.

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Licentiate Diploma Examination Requirements

This examination consists of three practical sections and a written section. All sections must be successfully completed in the one session in order to be awarded a Diploma.

SECTION 1: (Performance)

The candidate will select and perform two contrasting songs, the minimum standard of which should be Grade 8. One song should be in a language other than English and all should be from memory. Technical ability and appropriate stylistic interpretation should be clearly demonstrated to successfully pass this section.

N.B. Candidates who have completed Grades 1 – 8 of St Cecilia singing practical examinations, or other recognised singing courses and syllabuses, may be exempt from this section. Candidates must provide original copies of all certificates in order to request exemption from this section.

SECTION 2: (Discussion of Performance Pieces)

The candidate will select ONE song from each of the following musical periods – Baroque, Classical, Romantic and 20th / 21st Century (Contemporary), chosen from Grade 5 – 8 of the St Cecilia Singing Syllabus. (Songs already presented in Section 1 are not acceptable.) The candidate will be required to discuss from the teaching perspective, the technical and musical content of each; the stylistic interpretation as well as the challenges these songs could present. Appropriate demonstration may further illustrate the discussion.

SECTION 3: (Discussion of Singing Teaching)

The candidate will discuss with the examiner, the teaching of singing pupils of all ages and levels. Appropriate demonstration may be required to illustrate methods and concepts in particular areas of vocal development. Credit will be given for confidence in the explanation of teaching methods and may cover the following areas:

- (a) Technique. The teaching of ALL aspects of basic foundational techniques required in developing the singing voice including the development of aural skills.

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- (b) Performance. Motivation, the relevance of concerts, examinations, competitions and workshops and performing experience for the developing voice student.
- (c) Repertoire. An awareness of music history and a theoretical understanding as well as a knowledge of vocal genres, repertoire and resources for students of various ages and levels of development.
- (d) The Studio. Maintaining a vocal studio. Professional protocol and teaching ethics, the values and principles of educational theory and philosophies, and a knowledge of health and safety regulations. Computer technology in vocal musical education.

WRITTEN PAPER

This paper must be completed externally and presented to the examiners at the time of the practical examination.

The purpose behind the written paper in this examination is to ensure that the candidate has a clear understanding of the requirements of a specialist music teacher from beginner to diploma performance levels. Candidates should aim for correct, factual evidence in their papers, as well as creativity and originality in presenting musical material and concepts.

Written Paper Requirements

Prepare a structured and detailed course for effective teaching to develop the singing voice from beginner to diploma performance level. A sound knowledge of both classical and contemporary delivery and repertoire should be apparent.

Included should be reference to the historical development of vocal pedagogy, eminent practitioners and their methodology, Tonic sol-fa and IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet).

This paper should include illustrations and examples of vocalises and exercises where appropriate. It should be presented in an interesting and informative manner to reflect the candidate's individuality as a singing teacher. Minimum 8,000 words.