

St Cecilia Diploma (Church Music)

Dip.SCSM (Ch.M)

General Information

The Diploma of the St. Cecilia School of Music in Church Music is a qualification which reflects a musician's ability to professionally direct and manage the music requirements of a church of any denomination, size and location.

Musicians who already hold certain qualifications may be exempted from various sections of this Diploma.

In preparing for the Dip.SCSM (Ch.M.) candidates are advised to ensure that every aspect of the diploma is covered thoroughly. Presentations must be professionally presented, detailed and imaginative. A mature musical awareness must also be demonstrated.

Successful candidates will be confident, knowledgeable and skilled.

Candidates who have prior experience will benefit from their practical understanding of the challenges associated with the profession. Evidence of prior learning and experiences will be useful for the examiners and a letter of authority from a minister and/or music director may be presented.

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

Diploma Examination Requirements

This examination consists of two sections - one practical and one written. Both sections must be successfully completed in order to be awarded a Diploma.

The Diploma shall be open to instrumentalists, conductors and singers of a minimum age of 18 years, who are actively engaged as musicians in the liturgies of any religion or denomination.

Pre-requisite Requirements:

Candidates must hold a certificate from any recognised board of at least Grade Eight performance level in any instrument/voice before entering for this diploma. Certified evidence is required at the time of entry.

Candidates who have not completed a Grade Eight examination may be exempted from this requirement if they can provide evidence of equivalent or comparable musical background. Application for exemption should be made prior to submitting entries.

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SECTION 1: Performance Presentation

Candidates shall be required to (1) submit a DVD or video recording of an actual service or services at which they act as musicians or conductors. The recording(s) must contain a total of at least 25 minutes of music, and be accompanied by a signed statement from a minister of religion that the recording is an actual service. A reference verifying the candidate's activities as a church musician must also be included.

It is in the candidate's interest that the quality of the video recording be professionally presented and that appropriate cameras and sound equipment be used. Video recordings will not be returned.

The submission will be assessed considering the following factors:

- the competence and professionalism of the musical delivery
- the musical skills exhibited by the candidate
- the suitability of the repertoire presented in the context of the service

SECTION 2: WRITTEN PAPER

This paper must be completed externally and presented along with the video presentation in Section 1.

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 church musician.

The candidate will submit a general plan (approximately 2000 - 3000 words) which outlines an imaginative and inspiring programme of musical development within his/her church over a four to six month period. In addition to the candidate's individual ideas and input the programme should consist of:

- examples of appropriate music in relation to the liturgy used
- an explanation of how and why the music will be implemented
- the management of choral and instrumental rehearsals for public presentation
- methods of recruiting musicians as well as maintaining their interest and enthusiasm
- methods and ideas of promoting church music to the wider community