

Concert Certificate Examinations

St. Cecilia's Concert Certificate examinations are available for all instruments and voice at every level i.e. Beginner through to Grade 8. These examinations provide students with the opportunity to prepare and present an interesting program in a formal concert-style environment.

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:

- A minimum of **Four** Items must be presented which reflect an interesting and balanced Program. 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 should be chosen from the current St. Cecilia syllabus e.g. for Concert Certificate Four, items must be chosen from anywhere within the St. Cecilia Grade Four syllabus. Alternative pieces may be presented with prior approval.
- Appropriate formal concert dress and accepted stage presentation and etiquette (bowing, audience acknowledgement etc.) are also assessed. School uniform is usually not considered appropriate. Further details are available upon request.
- An imaginatively set out written program 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.

Concert Certificate examinations must fit into the following time limits. The times below represent actual playing time with a maximum 20-second allowance between each ITEM. If necessary, repeats may be played. It is acceptable to include more than one piece within an item e.g. combining two pieces of similar character, title, text or by the same composer.

Beginner, Junior Concert Certificate	-	2 to 10 minutes
Preliminary Concert Certificate	-	3 to 10 minutes
Concert Certificate 1	-	5 to 10 minutes
Concert Certificate 2	-	6 to 10 minutes
Concert Certificate 3	-	7 to 10 minutes
Concert Certificate 4	-	9 to 12 minutes
Concert Certificate 5	-	10 to 15 minutes
Concert Certificate 6	-	12 to 18 minutes
Concert Certificate 7	-	14 to 20 minutes
Concert Certificate 8	-	16 to 22 minutes

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT & HINTS TO PERFORMERS

- **The manner of dress.** As for a public performance. Students 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.** Students 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 may earn additional marks.
- **A smart Program.** The Program 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 turner (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 orchestral strings, woodwind, brass and singing. One piece may be unaccompanied. The accompanying instrument may not necessarily be restricted to piano. (e.g. guitar or small ensemble may accompany if appropriate) Backing tracks are not acceptable for higher grades.

