

## *Introduction*

This syllabus is intended as a guideline to prepare students for Conservatory Canada examinations in contemporary styles of music such as *Swing, Blues and Rock*. It is a separate program from our traditional *Classical* syllabus.

Conservatory Canada examination programs have long provided a nation-wide system for evaluation and accreditation through core programs to encourage and assess broadly based musicianship. As well, there are innovative features (such as Mini-lessons, Recital Assessments, and Teacher Development Assessments) that increase the options for flexibility, educational value, and meaningful and friendly interaction among teacher, student and examiner.

While this syllabus is not intended as a curriculum (that's the prerogative of the teacher), it is designed to give guidance and support to teachers and students of a "new" or more contemporary style of music.

The clearly defined goals of an examination encourage comprehensive skill development, and offer an arms-length assessment of progress against a national standard. While the examination forms a valuable part of a total picture of musical training, it should not be considered as the entire focus of music studies. *Teachers are urged to explore a wide variety of repertoire in lessons throughout the year, and then to choose from this the pieces that will be performed in the examination.* Conservatory Canada believes that the practical examination must assess as broad a spectrum of skills and musicianship as possible. So, in addition to pieces from various contemporary genres, we devote significant focus to technique, aural and sight training and oral questions. Students trained in these areas will be prepared to address with confidence whatever musical challenges await them in later life.

### **Performance Pieces**

Performance pieces have been chosen to give a representative sampling of contemporary genres of music and represent a healthy cross-section of materials from many of the major publishers. Provision for Supplementary Pieces and Irregular Lists allow for the use of works not included in this Syllabus but which may be favourites of the teacher or student.

### **Technique**

Technical requirements, including the sequence of keys, are carefully paced to help prepare for repertoire demands in each grade. Nevertheless, we have sought to balance training needs against the realities of time limitations in the lesson and varying student commitment. Where feasible, new concepts and exercises are introduced gradually, in a few keys at first, to develop basic skills without adding extra volume of work. Modes, so necessary to the performance of new music, are introduced at an early level. With scales and triads, a modest review process re-visits, on a revolving basis, several keys from earlier grades to keep them current and to reduce the time spent relearning them in later levels where all keys are required.

### **Sight Reading**

Sight reading will include the clapping of a rhythm appropriate to the specific level as well as a short passage that will be harmonized at sight.

### **Improvisation**

Improvisation skills begin at level 2. Students will be asked to improvise a simple melody in the right hand over one chord. As the levels progress, more chords are added and the harmonic language and improvisation skill will be expected to increase accordingly.

### **Keyboard Skills**

Jazz-based harmonic progressions are expected beginning at level 5 and start with ii7 to V7 to I maj7. Chords are to be done hands together with complete chords in each hand. The harmonic language of the progressions increases as the levels rise.

### **Background Information**

Oral questions about pieces, titles, terms, forms, and composers in examinations up to and including Level 8 encourage general musical knowledge and understanding of the styles and specific works performed. Written History and Theory co-requisites beginning at level 5 enhance this understanding.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION & REGULATIONS

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This Syllabus contains regulations and requirements for Piano examinations for levels 1 to 8 of the *Contemporary Idioms* program.

Conservatory Canada also offers traditional examinations in:

### Practical

Piano	Violin	Trumpet	Flute
Organ (pipe)	Viola	French Horn	Clarinet
Organ (electric)	Violoncello	Trombone	Saxophone
Guitar (classical)		Tuba	
Voice			
Teacher Development			

### Written

Theory (Rudiments)	Music History	Pedagogy
Theory (Harmony)		
Form & Analysis		

## Sessions

### Practical Examinations

The Conservatory conducts two practical examination sessions during each academic year. These examinations include most instruments and voice, and are held at centres throughout Canada (new centres may be established by arrangement with the Conservatory):

1. WINTER SESSION- last two weeks in February
2. SPRING SESSION- the entire month of June

*Applicants should consult the current examination form for the deadline date of the specific session for which they wish to apply.*

The Conservatory offers an online application service. Also available in many centres is an online scheduling service so students are able to choose their own day and time of examination. In other centres, we will make every effort to schedule examinations around legitimate events, such as school trips or school examinations, provided notice is given AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION. However, because of constraints in reserving facilities and examiners, **this cannot be guaranteed, and by submitting an application, the candidate agrees to appear for the examination as scheduled.** Candidates entering the June examinations must understand that it is not always possible to schedule music examinations around school examinations.

Candidates will be given at least two weeks notice of the date, time and place of the practical examination. Under no circumstances are candidates or their teachers permitted to change dates or times of the scheduled examination. **Examiners are instructed not to make schedule changes unless such changes have been authorized by the Office of the Registrar.**

### Written Examinations

The Conservatory conducts three written examination sessions during each academic year throughout Canada (new centres may be established by arrangement with the Conservatory):

1. WINTER SESSION- second Saturday in January
2. SPRING SESSION- second Saturday in May
3. SUMMER SESSION second Saturday in August

*Applicants should consult the current examination form for the deadline date for the specific session for which they wish to apply and for the date and exact time of day for the examination.*

## Applications

Applications may be made online at our website [www.conservatorycanada.ca](http://www.conservatorycanada.ca) or by printing the current application form found there. Completed forms must be submitted in person or by mail, courier, or fax (using Visa or MasterCard) to:

The Office of the Registrar  
Conservatory Canada  
1-575 Wharncliffe Road South  
London, Ontario, N6J 2N6  
Fax: (519) 433-7404  
E-mail: [mail@conservatorycanada.ca](mailto:mail@conservatorycanada.ca)

Applications must be received at the Conservatory office by midnight on the deadline date. Late applications will be charged a \$30 penalty.

Each partial or supplemental examination requires a new application, and partial examinations should be clearly, marked as *1st part* or *2nd part*.

## Centres

Practical examinations are conducted by fully qualified examiners appointed by the Conservatory in those centres where the number of applicants is deemed sufficient. The Conservatory reserves the right to defer examinations until a later session in any centre where the enrollment does not warrant the visit of an examiner, or to require the candidate to travel to the nearest viable centre. The best facilities available will be provided for examinations in centres as close as possible to the candidate's hometown. Candidates should plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before the examination is scheduled to begin.

## Payment of Fees

The appropriate fee must accompany the completed application form. A current fee schedule appears on the application form each year. Fees may be paid by cheque, Visa or MasterCard. **DO NOT SEND CASH THROUGH THE MAIL.** Applications submitted by fax must use either Visa or Master Card.

## Appeals

Queries or appeals concerning the examination procedure must be filed in writing with the Office of the Registrar within 10 days of the completion of the examination.

## Cancellations

Notice of withdrawal, for any reason, must be submitted in writing to the Office of the Registrar. Consult the current application form for refund policy regarding cancellations by the candidate before the scheduled date of the examination. No refund will be considered for notice of cancellation, for whatever reason, received after the scheduled date of the examination.

## Marking Standards

The Conservatory's standard of marking is as follows:

First-Class Honours with Distinction	90-100 marks
First-Class Honours	80-89 marks
Honours	70-79 marks
Pass	60-69 marks
Insufficient to Pass	Below 60 marks

## Results and Notices

Examination marks may be viewed online with the appropriate candidate number. All examination notices, results and certificates are normally sent to the teacher for distribution to the candidates. Under no condition will

examination results be released verbally, either in person or by telephone. Because examination marks are confidential to the teacher and candidate, results CANNOT be released to any other person.

**Certificates**

Certificates are awarded for all practical, theory and history examinations upon the successful completion of all requirements. For practical examinations certificates will be issued subject to the completion of theory/history co-requisite requirements listed for each grade.

**Visually Impaired or Physically Challenged Candidates**

The Conservatory will make every effort to make special provisions for visually impaired or physically challenged candidates. For details, please contact the Office of the Registrar *before the closing date for applications*.



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## REGULATIONS FOR PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS

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### **Conduct of Practical Examinations**

Only the Examiner, or Examiners, and the candidate will be permitted to be present in the examination room during the progress of the examination. Where collaborative pianists are needed, they will be permitted in the room only for those portions for which their services are required.

In accordance with copyright law, photocopies of musical scores (for use by the candidate or accompanist or the examiner) are NOT permitted in the examination room unless the candidate can present written authorization from the copyright holder.

Candidates must list in the appropriate place on the back of the examination notice all repertoire to be performed in the examination. This list must be given to the examiner at the start of the examination.

### **Irregular Lists**

Any piece not found in the list pieces for the particular grade in this syllabus constitutes an irregular list piece.

Candidates may make written request, by email, mail, fax or in person, to the Office of the Registrar for approval to perform an irregular list piece.

A list of approved irregular pieces will be maintained on our website for the consideration of all exam students.

Requests for approval must include full details of the piece along with a copy of the music, and must reach the Registrar's Office within 30 days of the deadline for application. The Conservatory cannot take responsibility if the request is denied and the piece deemed inappropriate for the examination.

For those pieces given special approval, an official form setting this out will be sent to the candidate who must, in turn, hand it along with the printed score to the Examiner at the time of the examination.

A piece approved as an irregular list piece may not be played at a subsequent examination.

*NOTE: It is permissible, without special approval, to include one piece from the next higher level in this syllabus, provided it is from the same list. Compositions listed in this Syllabus for more than one level higher may NOT be used.*

### **Partial Examinations**

Candidates in levels 7 and 8 may choose to take the examination in two parts, each at a different session. These partial examinations are to be divided into two reasonably equal parts, each part comprising approximately 50% of the marks allotted for that grade (see MARKS at the end of each grade). The first part must contain no less than 43% and no more than 57% of the requirements. The second part must be completed within twelve months following the first sitting, and must include all aspects not previously examined in the first part.

The division of the examination is left to the discretion of the teacher and candidate. Sections given a composite mark (e.g. the complete technical requirements or the complete aural tests) may not be sub-divided and must be completed at one sitting. At each sitting the list presented to the Examiner must contain details of all components that are to be heard. Each section as it is presented will be awarded a mark.

No portion of a partial examination completed during the first sitting may be repeated for the second sitting in order to attempt to improve the mark already awarded.

The total mark at the conclusion of the second sitting determines the standing of the candidate, and there can be no recourse to adjustment of this final mark. If the results of the first sitting are low, then it might be to the advantage of the candidate to start over.

Candidates who choose to play a partial examination will not be eligible for either scholarships or medals.

**Theory & History Co-requisites for Practical Certificates**

Theoretical subjects are required for practical Certificates for all instruments and voice beyond level 4. Certificates are issued only when the required Theory and/or History co-requisites are completed.

For details concerning regulations and requirements for all Rudiments/Theory and History examinations, candidates should consult the *Theory & History Syllabus (1998)*.

**Mini-lessons**

Mini-lessons provide a unique learning opportunity for students at all levels and, at the same time, serve as an informal, private workshop for the teacher. It is an optional 15-minute private lesson, with the teacher present, to be given by the examiner immediately following the practical examination. The Mini-lesson will be used to explore ways to overcome particular technical difficulties or investigate ideas concerning musicianship and style to help the candidate improve. Mini-lessons are tailored to the needs of the student, and to this end, the teacher and/or the student may wish to suggest to the examiner what they would like to cover in the Mini-lesson. Candidates wishing to register for a Mini-lesson should indicate this in the appropriate place on the examination application and also enclose the appropriate Mini-lesson fee.