



CHORAL ENSEMBLE EXAMINATIONS

St. Cecilia Examinations Intl. offers Choral Ensemble examinations throughout its international examination network. These examinations provide a formal opportunity for Choir Directors/Conductors to enter their students for assessment and be rewarded with a grading as well as an individual certificate for each participant. Choral Ensemble examinations may be conducted with an audience present.

Requirements

Choir Directors have complete discretion in choosing appropriate repertoire for their ensembles. St. Cecilia advises that the chosen pieces are within the technical and musical capabilities of the ensemble. We also suggest that the choice of text be considered carefully to ensure appropriateness to the age and maturity levels of the ensemble. Choirs may be accompanied by any solo instrument e.g. piano, guitar; percussion OR an instrumental ensemble e.g. chamber group; string quartet; guitar ensemble etc. One item may be *A Cappella*. Performances may be with or without a conductor. For more theatrical presentations, we recommend choosing the Certificate of Performing Arts Ensemble examinations which may incorporate basic costumes and props.

Grade Levels

There are eight grade levels available for Choral Ensemble assessment:

- Grade One: Kindergarten; Pre-School; Infant
- Grade Two: Lower Primary
- Grade Three: Upper Primary
- Grade Four: Lower Secondary
- Grade Five: Upper Secondary
- Grade Six: Advanced
- Grade Seven: Advanced Concert
- Grade Eight: Advanced Professional

Performance Timings

Any number of items may be presented but minimum and maximum time restrictions must be observed for each level:

- Grade One: 8-10 minutes
- Grade Two: 10-20 minutes
- Grade Three: 12-25 minutes
- Grade Four: 15-30 minutes
- Grade Five: 15-35 minutes
- Grade Six: 20-40 minutes
- Grade Seven: 20-45 minutes
- Grade Eight: 30-60 minutes

Setting Up and Venue Requirements

Venue hire, including appropriate insurance is the responsibility of the Choral group(s). Venues must be comfortable and adhere to health & safety regulations. The venue must be set up and ready for performances before the examiner arrives. A desk must be provided for the examiner and this should be placed in a central location of the venue in order for the examiner to easily see and hear the performances. Adequate lighting must be provided. Amplification may be incorporated into the performance for subtle enhancement only.

Assessment Criteria

Performances will be assessed according to, but not restricted to, the following criteria:

- Choice of items including appropriate programming and timing
- Tonal balance
- Volume – including dynamics
- Clarity of sound and diction
- Accuracy of part singing – intonation; timing
- Performance and stage discipline
- Audience engagement

Written Programme

The examiner must be provided with a written programme which clearly outlines the items to be performed. Items must include the composer's name and dates as well as some general information about each piece to be performed. Some background details on the Choral group should be included e.g. average age of the performers; the history of the group; past performances; public successes – *competitions, participation in local concerts, tours etc.* The programme may be enhanced with relevant photographs, diagrams or pictures.

Addressing the Audience

Whilst not compulsory, the Conductor, Director or a designated choir member may address the audience in order to introduce items and/or provide background details about the choir group.

Marking System

The examiner will award the choir with a percentage score. The following categories apply:

- 65% - 74% Pass
- 75% - 84% Pass with Merit
- 85% - 89% Pass with Distinction
- 90%-100% Pass with Higher Distinction

All choir members will receive an individual certificate which states the member's name, the name of the Choir, the grade level and the result. The Choir Conductor/Director will also receive a specialised certificate.

Entry Details 2018

Entry may be made after first consulting the Administration of St Cecilia Examinations Tel: 1800 675 292 or Email: info@st-cecilia.com.au An entry form must be completed for each Choral group, attached to which should be the names of each member as well as the Choir conductor's/director's name. Entry forms are available from St. Cecilia.

Fees 2018/2019

Fees are calculated according to the number of choir members participating as well as the grade level chosen. The following fees are minimum fees for a group of 15 or fewer performers. Fees are in Australian Dollars and include GST.

- Grade One: \$155.00 (\$10 per additional performer)
- Grade Two: \$165.00 (\$10 per additional performer)
- Grade Three: \$175.00 (\$10 per additional performer)
- Grade Four: \$185.00 (\$10 per additional performer)
- Grade Five: \$200.00 (\$10 per additional performer)
- Grade Six: \$225.00 (\$10 per additional performer)
- Grade Seven: \$255.00 (\$10 per additional performer)
- Grade Eight: \$295.00 (\$10 per additional performer)

Further details may be obtained by contacting St. Cecilia School of Music & Examinations Intl.

- Tel: 1800 675 292
- Email: info@st-cecilia.com.au
- Web: www.st-cecilia.com.au
- Post: PO Box 938, Launceston, Tasmania 7250 Australia