



AUSTRALIAN
GUILD OF MUSIC
& SPEECH

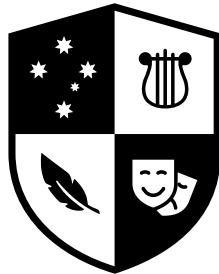
ADULT MUSICIAN



All Instruments

2026
SYLLABUS

agms.edu.au



AUSTRALIAN GUILD OF MUSIC & SPEECH

Adult Musician: Any Instrument 2026

This syllabus edition reviewed by
Bradley Eustace & Christina Kay
under the direction of the
AGMS Academic Advisory Committee

Typesetter: Christina Kay

Australian Guild of Music & Speech Ltd
P.O. Box 864,
Upper Coomera Qld 4209
Australia

ABN: 22 664 671 701
W: agms.edu.au

FOREWORD

We welcome you to join the **Australian Guild of Music and Speech Ltd** (AGMS) family. Founded in 1969, the AGMS is a proud Australian, **education and examination body**.

*“ Empowering your success
is our passion ”*

The **AGMS** is driven to provide engaging, relevant, high-quality frameworks, to mould solid foundations for the next generations of musicians and speech & drama performers and educators.

The **AGMS** provides examinations for music and speech & drama students from introductory to advanced levels, including Certificate (C.Mus.AGMS), Associate (A.Mus.AGMS), Licentiate (L.Mus.AGMS) and Fellowship (F.Mus.AGMS) diplomas.

Below gives an insight into the values we share with our members:

Music/Speech.	We champion the inherent value of all types of music/speech and its enormous contribution to the emotional, intellectual, spiritual, and physical development and self-esteem of individuals and communities. We leverage our position to spread the love of music/speech and drama.
Kindness.	Our approach is student-centric and, at all times, we are positive, encouraging, friendly and supportive. We assist the learner to recognise and celebrate their achievements.
Service.	We understand the needs of teachers and respond efficiently and flexibly. Our systems and processes are simple and make exam organisation and reporting easy.
Integrity.	Our examination process is academically sound, impartial, transparent and delivers assessments which are consistent with international standards.
Excellence.	We strive for best practice in examinations and only partner with the best examiners and educators.

Via an **Academic Advisory Committee**, the **AGMS** has formulated this syllabus.

We look forward to growing with you on your pathway of excellence.

Yours in the arts,

The AGMS Board of Directors.

CONTENTS

SYLLABUS & EXAMINATION POLICY OVERVIEW.....	4
COURSE RATIONALE.....	5
LEARNING GOALS.....	5
EXAMINATIONS AVAILABLE	6
OUTLINE OF ASSESSMENT	7
MARKING SCHEME.....	11
APPLICATION and EXAMINATION ENTRY.....	15
FEES, REFUNDS, TRANSFER	15
ATTENDANCE AT EXAMINATIONS, ABSENT	16
EXAMINATION PROCEDURE & OTHER ATTRIBUTES.....	16
ACCESSIBILITY POLICY	18
EXAMINER.....	18
PRACTICAL MUSIC EXAMINATION OUTLINES.....	19
STEP ONE (PREPARATORY).....	20
STEP TWO (ELEMENTARY)	21
STEP THREE (PRELIMINARY).....	22
GRADE ONE, TWO, THREE & FOUR.....	23
GRADE FIVE, SIX & SEVEN	25
GRADE EIGHT	27
CERTIFICATE C.Mus.AGMS.....	28
ASSOCIATE DIPLOMA A.Mus.AGMS.....	29
LICENTIATE DIPLOMA L.Mus.AGMS.....	31

SYLLABUS & EXAMINATION POLICY OVERVIEW



COURSE RATIONALE

For performers – the aim of the course is to give a guided approach to develop musical skills, confidence and enjoyment for adult and teen learners, from beginner level through to advanced virtuosic artist.

For music-teachers – a stream to develop music-teaching skills, which instils a comprehensive, high-quality pedagogical framework for educators to inspire adult musicians from beginners to advanced levels.

This syllabus can be used for students to enter at any stage. It isn't necessary to start from the entry grade and can jump and commence or continue at a level to match your technical abilities and current musical development. Your music teacher would be the best guide to select an appropriate grade to start.

The participant will develop an understanding of the fundamentals of music, at various stages of the course, including technique, posture, notation, rhythm, pitch, melody, expression, tone colour/timbre, style, harmony, creativity, and form.

Possible pathways after successful completion includes:

- for high school students, as an entry into tertiary music study or further training in a broad spectrum of music related careers.
- Offers student opportunities for personal development and encourages them to make an ongoing contribution to the culture of their community through participation in life-long music making.
- Becoming a music teacher.
- Becoming a creative artist in composing and/or arranging music.
- Becoming a musician for live or recorded performance.

LEARNING GOALS

Each step, grade, certificate, and diploma have different learning goals and requirements depending on the level. The aim and objective, ideas and concepts that underpins this course overall, is to create a well-rounded, balanced musician.

For practical music

- For **step 1 to 3, grade 1 to grade 7**, the learning objective includes the ability to display, fluent technical work, a musical performance of works on the instrument which consists of a solid rhythm, tone and musicianship.
- For **grade 8, certificate, associate, and licentiate**, the learning objectives includes the ability to display an advanced musical performance on the instrument with total control of all elements of musical performance.

EXAMINATIONS AVAILABLE

The AGMS offers various syllabi and examination styles for each instrument/voice:

- **Adult Musician** – (included in this syllabus)
 - **Technical work:** Based on keys of pieces performed.
 - **Pieces** (number of pieces varies according to grade). Please see relevant grade in ‘Adult Musician – Any Instrument’ syllabus for full details.
 - **Programme Notes** – required for CMus, AMus and LMus only
 - Examinations are offered **face-to-face** (depending on examiner availability), **online live**, and **recorded**.
 - **Recorded exams** may be all in one take, or in separate videos with each piece preceded by its relevant technical work, or all technical work on one video and each piece separately. No editing allowed.
- **Comprehensive** (Please see the corresponding syllabus for your instrument) includes:
 - **Technical work** (Please see relevant grade in this syllabus for full details).
 - **Pieces** (number of pieces varies according to grade). Please see relevant grade for full details.
 - **Supporting tests:** aural, sight reading, and general knowledge. Please see relevant grade for full details.
 - Examinations are offered **face-to-face** (depending on examiner availability), **online live**, and **recorded**.
 - For recorded examinations, please request information regarding technical work and subsections prior to the examination. All recorded examinations must be recorded in **one take**, no editing allowed.
- **Performance** (repertoire only) – Please see ‘Performance – Any Instrument’ syllabus for full details.
Includes:
 - **Pieces** (number of pieces varies according to grade). Please see relevant grade in ‘Performance – Any Instrument’ syllabus for full details.
 - **Programme Notes** – Please see relevant grade in ‘Performance – Any Instrument’ syllabus for full details.
 - All recorded examinations must be recorded in **one take**.
 - Candidates announce each piece and **present as for a performance**.
 - Examinations are offered **face-to-face** (depending on examiner availability), **online live**, and **recorded**, no editing allowed.
- **Recording Artist** (repertoire only) – Please see ‘Recording Artist – Any Instrument’ syllabus for full details. Includes:
 - Examinations are offered as **video recorded only**.
 - **3 Pieces**. Each recorded and **uploaded separately**.
 - Videos are to be recorded within 12 months of each other and uploaded prior to exam entry.

Below outlines the objectives for the **practical music** subjects.

Practical Music

The **practical music** subjects outlined in this syllabus are levelled as follows:

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL NAME
Diploma	Virtuosic and professional concert level of performance – total mastery of your instrument	L.Mus.AGMS (Licentiate of Music)
		A.Mus.AGMS (Associate of Music)
Certificate	Advanced concert level of performance	C.Mus.AGMS (Certificate of Music)
Grades	Advanced level of performance and technique	Grade Eight (Proficiency Certificate)
		Grade Seven
		Grade Six
	Intermediate level of performance and technique	Grade Five
		Grade Four
	Developing level of performance and technique	Grade Three
	Grade Two	
	Grade One	
Steps	Beginning elements to set the foundations of success in your instrument	Step Three (Preliminary)
		Step Two (Elementary)
		Step One (Preparatory)



OUTLINE OF ASSESSMENT

The syllabus contains an outline of all assessment items and is split into different levels/grades presented later in this document.

For most exams, a **condition for examination** is **only the examiner and candidate** to be present in the examination room.

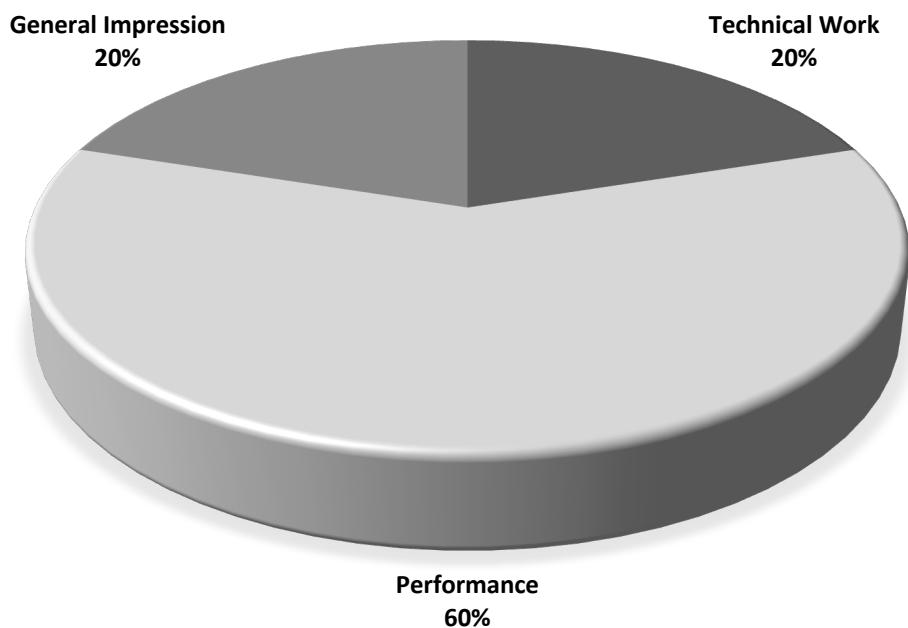
The only exception(s) to above, is as follows:

- A person is required to turn pages for the performer.
- An accompanist is used.
- A candidate is presenting a duet or ensemble as part of their examination.
- The candidate is presenting a C.Mus.AGMS, A.Mus.AGMS or L.Mus.AGMS to a live audience.
- The candidate has special needs and has a carer to help.

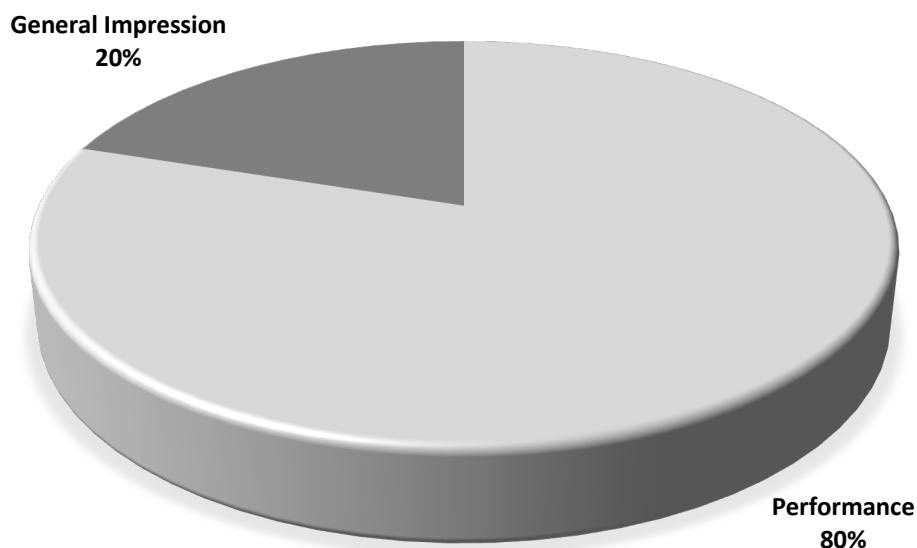
In all practical examinations the **AGMS** reserves the right to record video and/or audio at any time for examination and/or moderation purposes.

Practical Music Subjects Marks (Weighting)

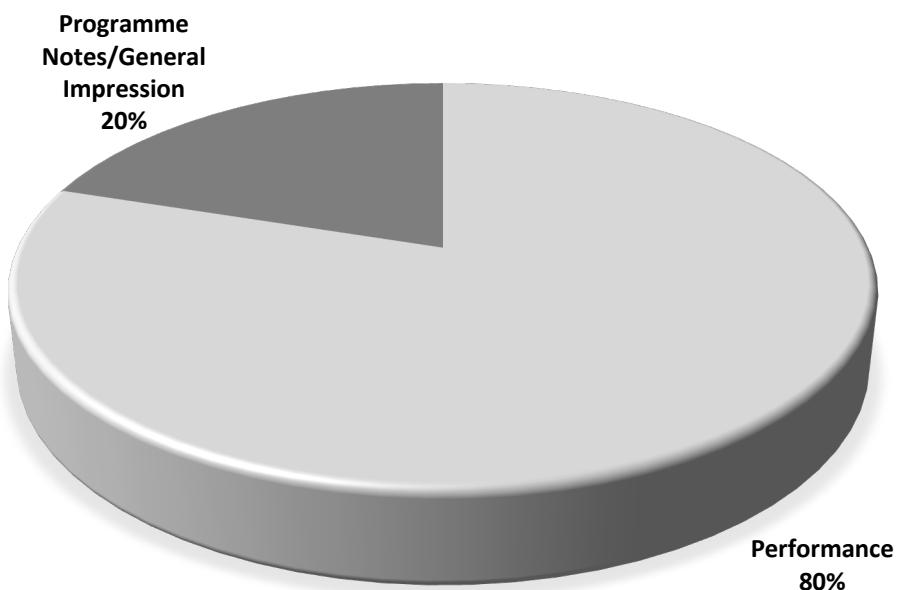
Following outlines, the marks (weighting) for each level.

Step 1 to Step 3, Grade 1 to Grade 7 Marks (Weighting)

SECTION	MARKS (WEIGHTING)
Technical Work	20
Performance	List A (20 Marks)
	List B (20 Marks)
	List C (20 Marks)
General Impression	20
TOTAL	100

Grade 8 Marking Percentage Overview**Grade 8 Marks (Weighting)**

SECTION	MARKS (WEIGHTING)	
Performance	All pieces	80
General Impression		20
TOTAL		100

C.Mus.AGMS, A.Mus.AGMS, L.Mus.AGMS Marking Percentage Overview**C.Mus.AGMS, A.Mus.AGMS, L.Mus.AGMS Marks (Weighting)**

SECTION	MARKS (WEIGHTING)	
Performance	All pieces	80
Programme Notes/General Impression		20
TOTAL		100

Authentication strategies

Each candidate needs to present either live in person or live online for the examiner.

Candidates presenting for video exams should introduce themselves or have the teacher introduce the candidate by name at the commencement of the video.

The candidate's face should be visible to the examiner at the beginning of the video examination.

MARKING SCHEME

The following outlines the marking scheme used for steps, grades, certificates, through to diploma levels as specified in this syllabus.

Step 1 to Step 3, Grade 1 to Grade 7 Marking Scheme

Marking Band	A	B	C	NGS	
Marking Range	20-17	16-15	14-13	12-1	0
Technical Work (20 Marks)	Accurate technical work at tempo for grade, with good technical skills, including posture and an awareness of the technique. Performed promptly and fluently with good tone.	Technical work is mostly correct with good technical skills at a good tempo for the level. Performed fluently. Showing an awareness of technique required and good developing tone.	Technical work generally well known. Performed at a steady tempo, showing an awareness of the technical skills required.	Some technical work known. Technical skills developing but not yet fluent in performance. Tempo may be slow. Some areas not well prepared.	Technical work not prepared at all.
Marking Range	20-17	16-15	14-13	12-1	0
Pieces List A: List B: List C: (20 Marks Each)	Notation, rhythm, and intonation accurate, technical control of the instrument with no hesitations.	Notation, rhythm, and intonation mostly correct with good technical control of the instrument.	Generally correct notation and rhythm and intonation.	Notation and rhythm may be developing but not yet fluent.	Not attempted. Unable to play the selection at all.
	Fluent, with clarity of presentation.	Good sense of rhythm, with few mistakes	The sense of rhythm is sustainable with generally stable pulse.	Rhythm not yet secure with a loss of fluency.	Not attempted. Unable to play the selection at all.
	Convincing tempo and feel for the style presented.	Reasonable tempo and feel for the style of the music presented.	Tempo reasonable, without losing the sense of style of music presented.	Tempo not secure, losing fluency and sense of style.	Not attempted. Unable to play the selection at all.
	Expressive playing, phrasing, use of rubato as appropriate and an overall awareness of the structure of the music.	Phrasing generally well controlled, with attention to details of expressiveness.	Some attention to phrasing, showing an awareness of the musical shape of the music	Sense of style appropriate for the structure and era of the music not recognised sufficiently well.	Not attempted. Unable to play the selection at all.
	Dynamics well controlled, with sensitive use appropriate to the style presented.	Good tonal awareness, and some attention to the details of the dynamics appropriate to the style.	Adequate attention to dynamics.	Dynamics not observed, resulting in a loss of style overall. Dynamics inappropriate for stylistic security.	Not attempted. Unable to play the selection at all.
Marking Range	20-17	16-15	14-13	12-1	0
General Impression (20 Marks)	The candidate is assured and presents well at this level as a performer.	The candidate presents well as a performer.	The candidate presents reasonably well as a performer.	Candidate has limited performance presentation.	Candidate does not present for the examination.
	The candidate demonstrates musicality and creativity in their performance.	The candidate demonstrates musicality and creativity in most of their performance pieces.	The candidate demonstrates some musicality and creativity in most of their performance pieces.	The candidate shows limited understanding of the style and genre of each selection.	Candidate does not present for the examination.

Grade 8 Marking Scheme

Marking Band	High Distinction	Distinction	Award	NGS	
Mark Range	80-76	75-72	71-56	51-1	0
Pieces (80 Marks)	Notation, rhythm, and intonation accurate, technical control of the instrument with no hesitations.	Notation, rhythm, and intonation generally correct with good technical control of the instrument.	Mostly correct notation, rhythm and intonation.	Many stumbles with several incorrect notational work that detracted from the overall performance	Not attempted.
	Fluent, with clarity of presentation.	Good sense of rhythm, with few mistakes	The sense of rhythm is sustainable with generally stable pulse	Rhythmic pulse not well controlled with resulting lack of rhythmic flow.	Not attempted.
	Convincing tempo and feel for the style presented.	Reasonable tempo and feel for the style of the music presented.	Tempo reasonable, without losing the sense of style of music presented.	Tempo incorrect for the style of music presented, indicating a lack of understanding of the music or insufficient technical skills.	Not attempted.
	Expressive playing, phrasing, use of rubato as appropriate and an overall awareness of the structure of the music.	Phrasing generally well controlled, with attention to details of expressiveness.	Some attention to phrasing, showing an awareness of the musical shape of the music	An understanding of style and genre not demonstrated at all in the music.	Not attempted.
	Dynamics well controlled, with sensitive use appropriate to the style presented.	Good tonal awareness, and some attention to the details of the dynamics appropriate to the style.	Adequate attention to dynamics.	Dynamic range not appropriate for the music presented.	Not attempted.
Mark Range	20-19	18	17-14	13-1	0
General Impression (20 Marks)	The candidate is assured and presents well at this level as a performer.	The candidate presents well as a performer.	The candidate presents reasonably well as a performer.	Candidate has limited performance presentation.	Candidate does not present for the examination.
	The candidate demonstrates musicality and creativity in their performance.	The candidate demonstrates musicality and creativity in most of their performance pieces.	The candidate demonstrates some musicality and creativity in most of their performance pieces.	The candidate shows limited understanding of the style and genre of each selection.	Candidate does not present for the examination.

C.Mus.AGMS, A.Mus.AGMS, L.Mus.AGMS Marking Scheme

Marking Band	High Distinction		Distinction	Award	NGS	
	Mark Range	80-76	75-72		51-1	0
Pieces (80 Marks)	Notation, rhythm, and intonation accurate, technical control of the instrument with no hesitations.	Notation, rhythm, and intonation generally correct with good technical control of the instrument.	Mostly correct notation, rhythm and intonation.	Many stumbles with several incorrect notational work that detracted from the overall performance	Not attempted.	
	Fluent, with clarity of presentation.	Good sense of rhythm, with few mistakes	The sense of rhythm is sustainable with generally stable pulse	Rhythmic pulse not well controlled with resulting lack of rhythmic flow.	Not attempted.	
	Convincing tempo and feel for the style presented.	Reasonable tempo and feel for the style of the music presented.	Tempo reasonable, without losing the sense of style of music presented.	Tempo incorrect for the style of music presented, indicating a lack of understanding of the music or insufficient technical skills.	Not attempted.	
	Expressive playing, phrasing, use of rubato as appropriate and an overall awareness of the structure of the music.	Phrasing generally well controlled, with attention to details of expressiveness.	Some attention to phrasing, showing an awareness of the musical shape of the music	An understanding of style and genre not demonstrated at all in the music.	Not attempted.	
	Dynamics well controlled, with sensitive use appropriate to the style presented.	Good tonal awareness, and some attention to the details of the dynamics appropriate to the style.	Adequate attention to dynamics.	Dynamic range not appropriate for the music presented.	Not attempted.	
Mark Range	20-19	18	17-14	13-1	0	
Programme Notes / General Impression (20 Marks)	Programme notes are detailed with excellent information about composers, an analysis of the music, and general performance notes on each piece.	Programme notes are reasonably detailed with analysis and information on each composer and piece.	Programme notes show some research on each piece.	Programme notes not adequately presented and showing little research on each piece.	Programme notes not presented.	
	The candidate is assured and presents well at this level as a performer.	The candidate presents well as a performer.	The candidate presents reasonably well as a performer.	Candidate has limited performance presentation.	Candidate does not present for the examination.	
	The candidate demonstrates musicality and creativity in their performance.	The candidate demonstrates musicality and creativity in most of their performance pieces.	The candidate demonstrates some musicality and creativity in most of their performance pieces.	The candidate shows limited understanding of the style and genre of each selection.	Candidate does not present for the examination.	

Practical Music

The **practical music** marking system, awards the following based on the mark received.

Details are below:

LEVEL	Grade Eight (Proficiency)	
	Grade Seven,	
	Grade Six	
	Grade Five	
	Grade Four	L.Mus.AGMS
	Grade Three	A.Mus.AGMS
	Grade Two	C.Mus.AGMS
	Grade One	
	Step Three (Preliminary)	
	Step Two (Elementary)	
	Step One (Preparatory)	
MARK	95-100	A+ High Distinction
	90-94	High A Distinction
	85-89	A Honours
	80-84	B+ High Credit
	75-79	B Credit
	70-74	C+ High Pass
	65-69	C Pass
	0-64	NGS (Not Grade Standard)

CERTIFICATES

Certificates are only issued for **A+ High Distinction, High A Honours, A Honours, B+ High Credit, B Credit, C+ High Pass, C Pass**. No certificate is issued for **Not Grade Standard (NGS)** category. Certificates and Diplomas are either **Award with High Distinction, Award with Distinction, Award or No Award**.

The **AGMS** admin automatically issues the appropriate certificate. The Grade 8 (Proficiency), Certificate and all Diplomas are presented to successful candidate at the annual Graduation in April of each year in Australia.

VALIDITY POLICY

Examiners will be allocated randomly and follow a marking rubric. Any candidates who have been taught by an examiner in the past 12-months shall not be allocated to that assessor.

APPLICATION and EXAMINATION ENTRY

All entries can only be made online, via the **agms.edu.au** site. Examinations are held at centres presenting sufficient candidate numbers to justify the visit by a **AGMS examiner**. If the **AGMS** finds it necessary to cancel an examination at a centre the candidate may then be directed to the nearest centre. If this, too, is found to be impracticable, then Video examinations may be offered. Fees will be refunded if the **AGMS** cannot service the examination centre or the alternative offered. Ensure the candidate's name is correct when placing the entry. Once the certificate has been printed and posted, there will a AU\$20.00 fee to replace the certificate with the corrected name.

FEES, REFUNDS, TRANSFER

FEE LIST

A complete list of fees is published on the **agms.edu.au** website. All fees are paid online using the secure online credit card payment system.

FEE REFUND

Fees cannot be refunded. But in very exceptional circumstances, an application can be made to the **AGMS admin** for consideration for a fee refund. When the **AGMS** receives an application for an examination refund and it is accepted, a AU\$50.00 admin fee will be deducted from the refunded amount. In the case the **AGMS** is not able to service the examination centre for various reasons – for example, remote location, a full refund will be offered.

EXAMINATION RE-ENTRY

No fee concession is provided in the regulations for a repeat examination entry subsequent to failure to pass (NGS – not grade standard) the examination. The full fee prescribed in the current fee list for the particular Step, Grade, Certificate or Diploma must be paid in full when making another examination entry.

CONCESSIONAL RE-ENTRY

This type of examination entry concerns a candidate who misses an examination because of medical or other reasons. A fresh entry form must be completed. Attach a copy of the doctor's certificate or appropriate letter and enclose the necessary half fee(s) based on the current Fee List.

This concession must be taken within 6-months of the original date of entry, otherwise it lapses, and any fees held in credit will then be forfeited. This procedure also applies to any examination for which a new time and date is requested by the candidate. When making this application, a candidate has the right to make a concessional re-entry at a higher Grade level. But payment for the balance of the half fee is necessary. All applications for concessional re-entry must be made through the **AGMS** admin.

TRANSFER OF FEES

Fees may **not** be transferred to the credit of another candidate - except in cases of hardship or similar circumstances within the family. Such a concession must be approved by the **Board of Directors** of the **AGMS** after an application in writing has been made.

ATTENDANCE AT EXAMINATIONS, ABSENT

Candidates may **not** interchange examination time periods without prior permission from the **AGMS** admin or the **examiner**. Candidates are required to attend the examination location fifteen minutes before the appointed time.

ABSENT CANDIDATES

Candidates absenting themselves from an examination to which they have been called and notified, will forfeit the fees paid. The only exceptions to this rule are in the event of a death in the family, illness or accident, school examinations being scheduled for the same date, or for religious purposes. An appropriate certificate or letter should be obtained and a copy attached to any future examination entry at half fee to be taken within six months of the original examination.

EXAMINATION PROCEDURE & OTHER ATTRIBUTES

IN-PERSON EXAMINATION

At an in-person examination, you will be allocated a venue and a time by the AGMS admin. Please arrive 15 minutes before the allotted examination time and wait outside the examination room. Only the candidate or exceptions listed in **Outline of Assessments** is permitted in the examination room.

LIVE ONLINE EXAMINATION

At a live online examination, you will be allocated a time and sent a link from by the **AGMS** admin. Please ensure your device is powered on, has a clear view of the candidate as if the examiner was in the room and have a high-speed internet connection. The examiner will call at the allotted time.

RECORDED EXAMINATION

This may be a one-take recording of the complete performance, or recorded in sections: Technical work and each piece individually, or each piece preceded by the relevant technical work. The video must clearly show the candidate and have clear sound. Once completed – upload to Youtube, OneDrive or similar and paste the link in the section provided on the online entry form.

ACCOMPANIMENTS FOR EXAMINATION

All accompaniments are the responsibility of the candidate. If using a backing track, it is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure there is an adequate sound system for the purposes of the examination.

EXAMINATION WORKS CHOSEN FOR PERFORMANCE

These should always be prepared in full unless otherwise indicated in the syllabus. Because of the length of some works, it may not always be possible for the examiner to hear the whole of the prepared work. The examiner may end any candidate's performance at any point when he or she is satisfied with what has already been performed.

WORKS AVAILABILITY

The **AGMS** does not carry stocks of list pieces, textbooks or literary works for sale or distribution other than its own publications. The **AGMS** cannot guarantee that the music and/or literary works in its lists will always be available from publishers and/or retailers. In some Lists where publisher's names are quoted, these are intended only as a guide or as a means of identification. Any standard edition is acceptable.

OWN CHOICE ITEMS

No authorisation of **own choice** items is required from step 1 to step 3, grade 1 to grade 8. Own choice items should be of a comparable level of technical and musical challenge as the recommended list selections of the grade. **Authorisation for own choice** items is only required for C.Mus.AGMS, A.Mus.AGMS and L.Mus.AGMS by contacting the **AGMS** admin. If you are unsure about the suitability of a work for any grade, please feel free to contact **AGMS** at any time.

IMPROVISATION

There is provision for Improvisation and embellishment of the sheet copy where appropriate. If candidates elect to improvise, care must be taken to maintain the work's integrity & difficulty.

INSTRUMENTS

Instruments used for performance should be of an appropriate quality and in good condition to ensure that the candidate can present their performance well.

MEMORY

Although not a requirement, the playing of all music from memory is to be encouraged as many benefits can be derived from playing from memory.

MUSIC REPEATS

Candidates must be familiar with the repeats as marked in the examination pieces being played, but unless requested by the examiner, they need not be performed. However, ***Da Capo*** should be observed.

PHOTOCOPIES

The **AGMS** complies with all international copyright law and does **not** allow the use of photocopies, unless the original is present, and the copy is only used to facilitate the ease of page turning. Candidates should be aware that if photocopies are used, the examiner may refuse to allow the examination to proceed until an original publication is obtained. Any lost time, therefore, would be at the candidate's expense, as the allotted examination period could not be changed.

NATIONAL AWARDS & SPECIAL CERTIFICATES

National Awards and Special Certificates are awarded every year. Many donations are received on a regular basis for the **Annual AGMS Award and Concert Presentation** from supportive teachers and others as well as from businesses. The **AGMS** is grateful on behalf of all candidates for this valued support, as is it devoted wholly to the many successful examination candidates who have endeavoured and achieved in the preceding year.

ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

The **AGMS** works to provide flexibility and opportunities for students who have either physical or mental disabilities. The **AGMS** can accept entries from candidates who are physically handicapped or who are blind. Details of the disability should be quoted at the time of entry so that examiners can be alerted to any unusual set of circumstances which may arise. Examination requirements can be varied in accordance with the **AGMS** philosophy of rewarding disciplined endeavour and skill and supporting self-esteem. Contact the **AGMS** admin about this matter.

EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S DECISION & APPEALS PROCESS

The examiner's decision is final. However, it is possible to appeal this. This appeal must be instigated within two-weeks of receiving the results by addressing such to the **AGMS Board of Directors**. Should there be sufficient evidence for the appeal to be successful, then the candidate will be offered the opportunity to resit the examination at a mutually convenient time with a different examiner.

EXAMINER REQUIREMENTS & RELIABILITY POLICY

All **AGMS** examiners are professionals in their field and undergo a period of supervised training to be appointed as an **AGMS** examiner. This ensures **AGMS** examiners are highly aware of the syllabus criteria and marking scheme. The **AGMS** has an examiner training courses at different levels. Periodically, all examiners attend a moderation session to ensure a consistent mark between the examiners. All examiners and staff hold current working with children check, blue card or equivalent.

PRACTICAL MUSIC EXAMINATION OUTLINES



ADULT MUSICIAN ANY INSTRUMENT: STEP ONE (PREPARATORY)

Examination Time: 10 minutes

Minimum pass mark 65%

TECHNICAL WORK**20 Marks****SCALES** (All Technical Work from memory)**Keyboard instruments**

Similar Motion: Hands separately; One octave ascending and descending.
Tempo: A comfortable, consistant tempo is to be presented.

Major: C

Vocal and Single-line instruments

Major: Select any major key and play/sing the first five notes of that scale ascending and descending.
Tempo: A comfortable, consistant tempo is to be presented.



NOTE: Score is an example in C Major. Candidate may present any major key.

REPERTOIRE**60 Marks**

Three Pieces to be performed in total.

OWN CHOICE

Candidates may perform pieces from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level.

OR

Select a Program of their OWN CHOICE of the same level of difficulty.

GENERAL IMPRESSION**20 Marks**

Candidates will be assessed on appropriate attire, confidence and performance flair.

ADULT MUSICIAN ANY INSTRUMENT: STEP TWO (ELEMENTARY)

Examination Time: 10 minutes

Minimum pass mark 65%

TECHNICAL WORK**20 Marks****SCALES** (All Technical Work from memory)**Keyboard instruments**

Similar Motion: Hands separately; One octave ascending and descending.
Tempo: A comfortable, consistant tempo is to be presented.
Major: C & G

Vocal and Single-line instruments

Major: Select any major or minor key.
One octave ascending and descending.
Tempo: A comfortable, consistant tempo is to be presented.

REPERTOIRE**60 Marks**

Three Pieces to be performed in total.

OWN CHOICE

Candidates may perform pieces from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level.

OR

Select a Program of their OWN CHOICE of the same level of difficulty.

GENERAL IMPRESSION**20 Marks**

Candidates will be assessed on appropriate attire, confidence and performance flair.

ADULT MUSICIAN ANY INSTRUMENT: STEP THREE (PRELIMINARY)

Examination Time: 15 minutes

Minimum pass mark 65%

TECHNICAL WORK**20 Marks****SCALES (All Technical Work from memory)**

- The candidate will present one scale per performance piece (three scales in total), according to the keys of the works selected from the repertoire list of your corresponding instrument or vocal syllabus.
- Three different keys should be presented for the technical work section.
- If all pieces are in the same key, relative major/minor or dominant keys should be presented for two of the pieces.
- For example, if a candidate has two pieces in C Major and one in G Major, they would present the following scales: C Major, A minor and G Major.

Keyboard instruments

Similar Motion: Hands separately; One octave ascending and descending.
Tempo: A comfortable, consistent tempo is to be presented.

Vocal and Single-line instruments

One octave ascending and descending.
Tempo: A comfortable, consistent tempo is to be presented.

REPERTOIRE**60 Marks**

Three Pieces to be performed in total.

OWN CHOICE

Candidates may perform pieces from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level.

OR

Select a Program of their OWN CHOICE of the same level of difficulty.

GENERAL IMPRESSION**20 Marks**

Candidates will be assessed on appropriate attire, confidence and performance flair.

ADULT MUSICIAN ANY INSTRUMENT: GRADE ONE, TWO, THREE & FOUR

Examination time: 15 Minutes.

Minimum pass mark 65%

Suggested co-requisites:

- It is suggested that Grade Three practical candidates also complete the Preliminary Grade Theory of Music examination (or higher).
- It is suggested that Grade Four practical candidates also complete the Grade One Theory of Music examination (or higher).

TECHNICAL WORK**20 Marks****SCALES (All Technical Work from memory)**

- The candidate will present one scale per performance piece (three scales in total), according to the keys of the works selected from the repertoire list of your corresponding instrument or vocal syllabus.
- Three different keys should be presented for the technical work section.
- If all pieces are in the same key, relative major/minor or dominant keys should be presented for two of the pieces.
- For example, if a candidate has two pieces in C Major and one in G Major, they would present the following scales: C Major, A minor and G Major.

Keyboard instruments

Similar Motion: Hands together; One octave ascending and descending.
Tempo: A comfortable, consistant tempo is to be presented.

Arpeggios: Hands separately; One octave ascending and descending.
Tempo: A comfortable, consistant tempo is to be presented.

Vocal and Single-line instruments

Scales: One octave ascending and descending.
Tempo: A comfortable, consistant tempo is to be presented.

Arpeggios: One octave ascending and descending.
Tempo: A comfortable, consistant tempo is to be presented.

REPERTOIRE

60 Marks

Three Pieces to be performed in total.

OWN CHOICE

Candidates may perform pieces from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level.

OR

Select a Program of their OWN CHOICE of the same level of difficulty.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

20 Marks

Candidates will be assessed on appropriate attire, confidence and performance flair.

ADULT MUSICIAN ANY INSTRUMENT: GRADE FIVE, SIX & SEVEN

Examination time: 15 Minutes.

Minimum pass mark 65%

Suggested co-requisites:

- It is suggested that Grade Five practical candidates also complete the Grade Two Theory of Music examination (or higher).
- It is suggested that Grade Six practical candidates also complete the Grade Three Theory of Music examination (or higher).
- It is suggested that Grade Seven practical candidates also complete the Grade Four Theory of Music examination (or higher).

TECHNICAL WORK**20 Marks****SCALES (All Technical Work from memory)**

- The candidate will present one scale per performance piece (three scales in total), according to the keys of the works selected from the repertoire list of your corresponding instrument or vocal syllabus.
- Three different keys should be presented for the technical work section.
- If all pieces are in the same key, relative major/minor or dominant keys should be presented for two of the pieces.
- For example, if a candidate has two pieces in D Major and one in E Major, they would present the following scales: D Major, B minor and E Major.

Keyboard instruments

Similar Motion: Hands together; Two octaves ascending and descending.
Tempo: A comfortable, consistant tempo is to be presented.

Arpeggios: Hands together; Two octaves ascending and descending.
Tempo: A comfortable, consistant tempo is to be presented.

Single-line instruments

Scales: Two octaves ascending and descending.
Tempo: A comfortable, consistant tempo is to be presented.

Arpeggios: Two octaves ascending and descending.
Tempo: A comfortable, consistant tempo is to be presented.

Vocal/Smaller range instruments:

Scales: One and half octaves ascending and descending.
 Tempo: A comfortable, consistant tempo is to be presented.

Example:



Alternate:



Arpeggios: One and half octaves ascending and descending.
 Tempo: A comfortable, consistant tempo is to be presented.

Example:



Alternate:

**REPERTOIRE****60 Marks**

Three Pieces to be performed in total.

OWN CHOICE

Candidates may perform pieces from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level.

OR

Select a Program of their OWN CHOICE of the same level of difficulty.

GENERAL IMPRESSION**20 Marks**

Candidates will be assessed on appropriate attire, confidence and performance flair.

ADULT MUSICIAN ANY INSTRUMENT: GRADE EIGHT

Examination time: 20 Minutes.

Minimum pass mark 65%

Suggested co-requisite:

- It is suggested that Grade Eight practical candidates also complete the Grade Five Theory of Music examination (or higher).

REPERTOIRE**80 Marks**

Four Pieces to be performed in total.

OWN CHOICE

Candidates may perform pieces from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level.

OR

Select a Program of their OWN CHOICE of the same level of difficulty.

GENERAL IMPRESSION**20 Marks**

Candidates will be assessed on appropriate attire, confidence and performance flair.

ACADEMIC DRESS

Successful Candidates will be entitled to wear the appropriate Academic Gown, hat and stole.

They will also be invited to attend the annual AGMS Graduation Ceremony to be presented with their Certificate.

ADULT MUSICIAN ANY INSTRUMENT: CERTIFICATE C.Mus.AGMS

Total performance time 20 to 30 minutes

Minimum pass mark: 70%

NOTES

- No Prerequisite are required for the C.Mus.AGMS, however a concert standard of performance will be expected.
- Candidates are advised to prepare for the Adult Musician Certificate by presenting for Grade Eight prior to entering the Certificate.
- It is suggested that C.Mus.AGMS practical candidates also complete the Grade Five Theory of Music examination (or higher).
- Teachers and Candidates may invite an audience to attend.

PERFORMANCE**80 Marks**

- Candidates should prepare a Program of not less than 20 minutes and not more than 30 minutes total performance time, consisting of a minimum of four pieces.
 - Candidates may perform pieces from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level.
- OR**
- Select a Program of their OWN CHOICE or original composition(s) at the same level of difficulty. Written approval from AGMS is required before entering.
- Material should be technically demanding and show a musical understanding of the styles selected.
- A variety of styles should be presented.
- Time limits must be considered when choosing the program.

PROGRAMME NOTES / GENERAL IMPRESSION**20 Marks**

Detailed Program notes should be compiled and presented by the candidate. This should include:

- A Bio about the Performer.
- Information about Composers.
- Detail about form and structure of pieces.
- Detail about keys and modulations.
- Any interesting features of the works performed.

Candidates will also be assessed on the following criteria:

- Presentation/performance skills are assured and confident.
- Introduction of each piece to be performed.
- Demonstrates musicality and creativity in their programme.

ACADEMIC DRESS

Successful Candidates will be entitled to wear the appropriate Academic Gown, hat and stole.

They will also be invited to attend the annual AGMS Graduation Ceremony to be presented with their Certificate.

ADULT MUSICIAN ANY INSTRUMENT: ASSOCIATE DIPLOMA A.Mus.AGMS

Total performance time 25 to 35 minutes

Minimum pass mark: 70%

NOTES

- No prerequisites are required for the Adult Musician Associate Diploma A.Mus.AGMS, however a concert standard of performance will be expected.
- The AGMS suggests A.Mus.AGMS practical candidates also complete the Grade Seven Theory of Music examination (or higher).
- Candidates are advised to prepare for the Adult Musician Associate Diploma by presenting for C.Mus.AGMS prior to entering the Associate Diploma.
- Teachers and Candidates may invite an audience to attend.

PERFORMANCE**80 Marks**

- Candidates should prepare a Program of not less than 25 minutes and not more than 35 minutes total performance time, consisting of a minimum of four pieces.

- Candidates may perform pieces from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level.

OR

- Select a Program of their OWN CHOICE or original composition(s) at a suitable level of difficulty and length.

- One large-scale work is to be included.
- Material should be technically demanding and show a musical understanding of the styles selected.
- Marks will be awarded for performance flair and entertainment value as well as accuracy, musicianship, and musicality.
- A variety of styles should be presented.
- Time limits must be considered when choosing the program.
- Candidates are to provide a copy of each work for the use of examiners.

PROGRAMME NOTES / GENERAL IMPRESSION**20 Marks**

Detailed Program notes should be compiled and presented by the candidate. This should include:

- A Bio about the Performer.
- Information about Composers.
- Detail about form and structure of pieces.
- Detail about keys and modulations.
- Any interesting features of the works performed.

Candidates will also be assessed on the following criteria:

- Presentation/performance skills are assured and confident.
- Introduction of each piece to be performed.
- Demonstrates musicality and creativity in their programme.

ACADEMIC DRESS

Successful Candidates will be entitled to wear the appropriate Academic Gown, hat and stole for the A.Mus.AGMS. They will also be invited to attend the annual AGMS Graduation Ceremony to be presented with their Diploma.

ADULT MUSICIAN ANY INSTRUMENT: LICENTIATE DIPLOMA L.Mus.AGMS

Total performance time 30 to 40 minutes

Minimum pass mark: 70%

NOTES

- No prerequisites are required for the Adult Musician Licentiate Diploma L.Mus.AGMS, however a concert standard of performance will be expected.
- The AGMS suggests L.Mus.AGMS practical candidates also complete the Grade Seven Theory of Music examination (or higher).
- Candidates are advised to prepare for the Adult Musician Licentiate Diploma by presenting for A.Mus.AGMS prior to entering the Licentiate Diploma.
- Teachers and Candidates may invite an audience to attend.

PERFORMANCE**80 Marks**

- Candidates should prepare a Program of not less than 30 minutes and not more than 40 minutes total performance time, consisting of a minimum of four pieces.
 - Candidates may perform pieces from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level.

OR

- Select a Program of their OWN CHOICE or original composition(s) at an appropriate level of difficulty and length.

- One large-scale work is to be included.
- Material should be technically demanding and show a musical understanding of the styles selected.
- Marks will be awarded for performance flair and entertainment value as well as accuracy, musicianship, and musicality.
- A variety of styles should be presented.
- Time limits must be considered when choosing the program.
- Candidates are to provide a copy of each work for the use of examiners.

PROGRAMME NOTES / GENERAL IMPRESSION**20 Marks**

Detailed Program notes should be compiled and presented by the candidate. This should include:

- A Bio about the Performer.
- Information about Composers.
- Detail about form and structure of pieces.
- Detail about keys and modulations.
- Any interesting features of the works performed.

Candidates will also be assessed on the following criteria:

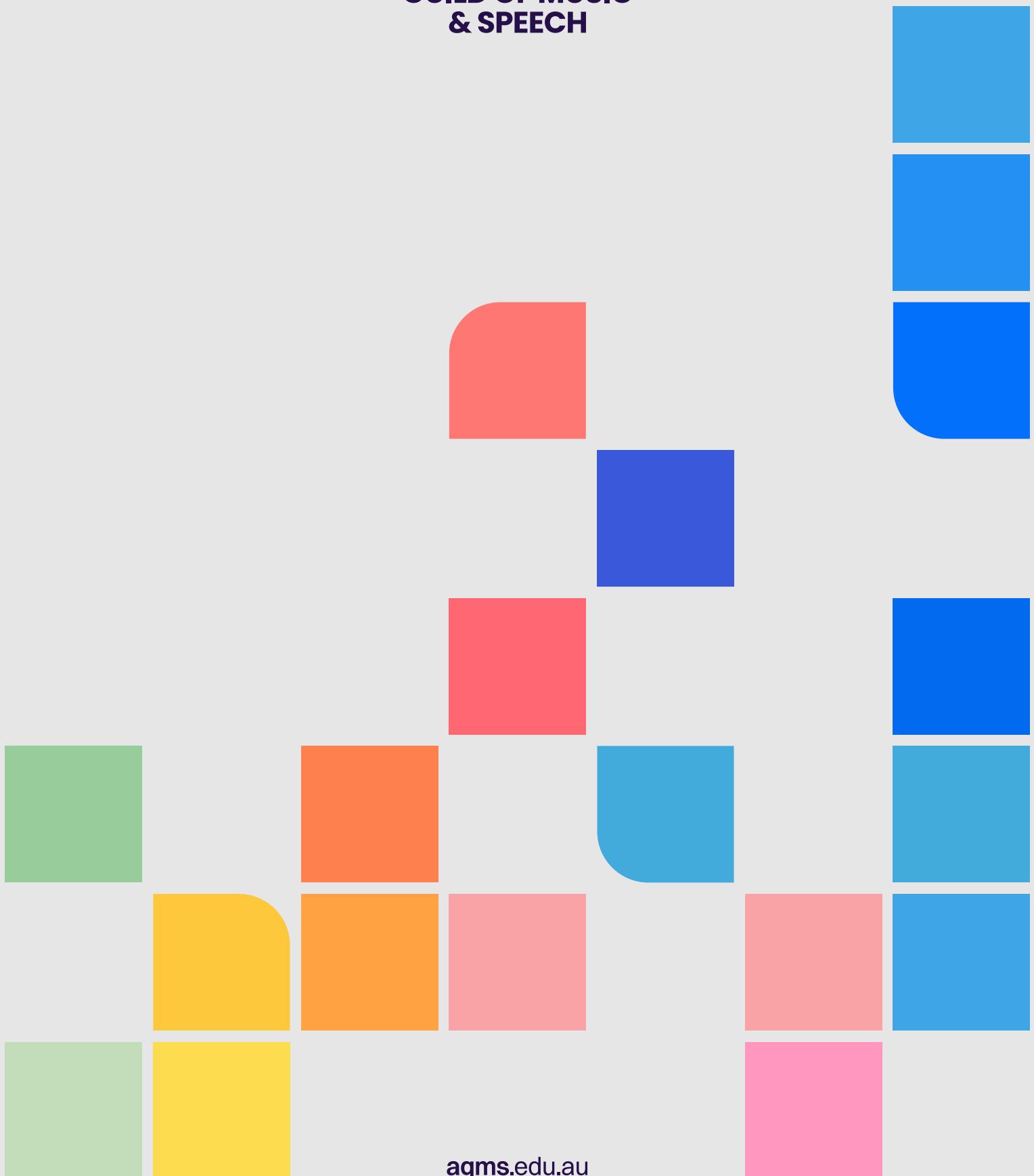
- Presentation/performance skills are assured and confident.
- Introduction of each piece to be performed.
- Demonstrates musicality and creativity in their programme.

ACADEMIC DRESS

Successful Candidates will be entitled to wear the appropriate Academic Gown, hat and stole for the L.Mus.AGMS. They will also be invited to attend the annual AGMS Graduation Ceremony to be presented with their Diploma.



**AUSTRALIAN
GUILD OF MUSIC
& SPEECH**



agms.edu.au