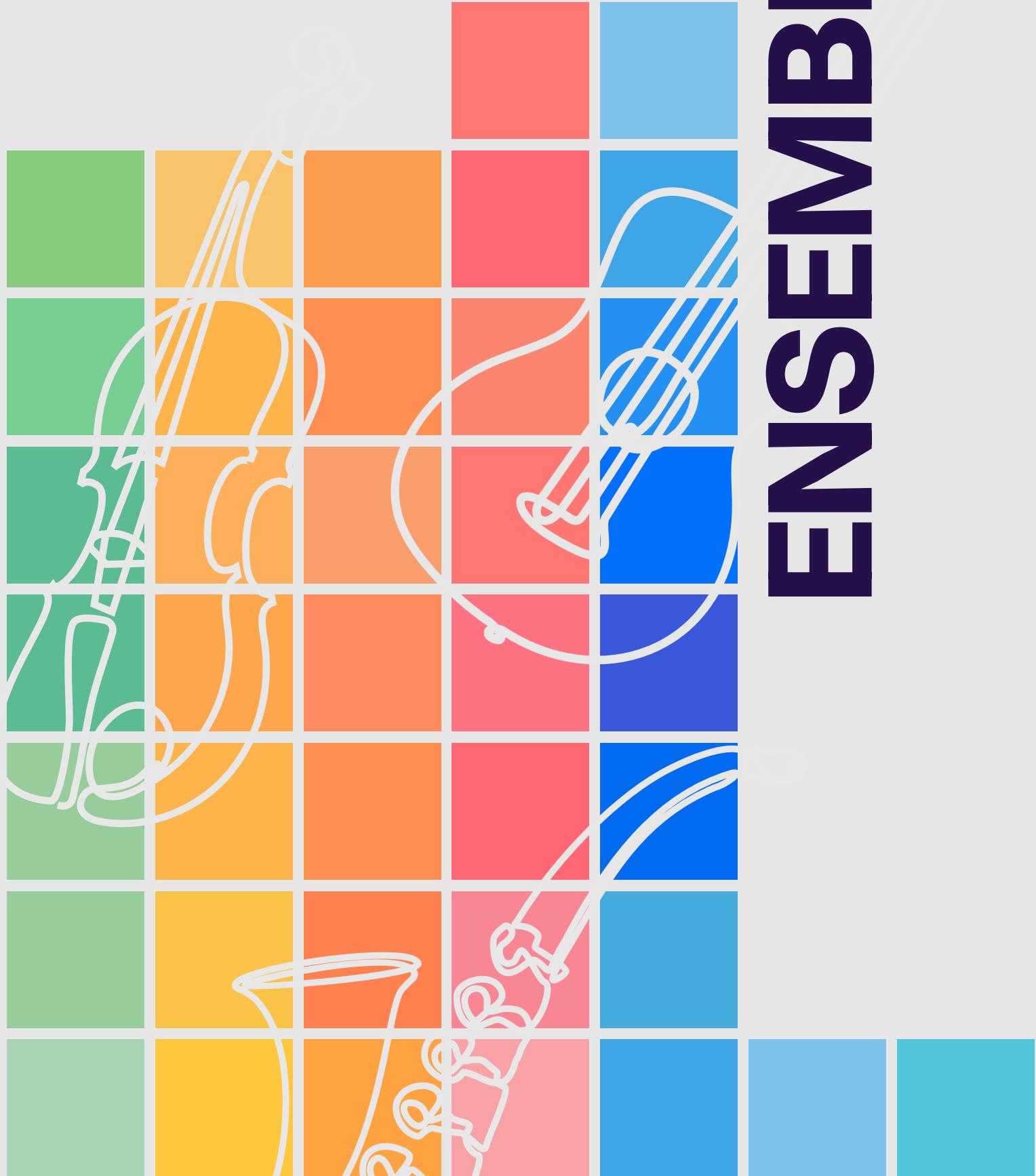




AUSTRALIAN  
GUILD OF MUSIC  
& SPEECH

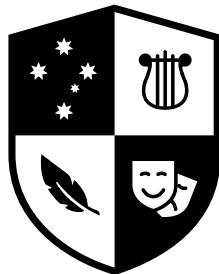
# ENSEMBLE



Repertoire - All Instruments

**2026**  
SYLLABUS

[agms.edu.au](http://agms.edu.au)



# AUSTRALIAN GUILD OF MUSIC & SPEECH

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**Ensemble (Repertoire): Any Instrument  
2026**

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Australian Guild of Music & Speech Ltd  
P.O. Box 864,  
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Australia

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## **FOREWORD**

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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:

<b>Music/Speech.</b>	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.
<b>Kindness.</b>	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.
<b>Service.</b>	We understand the needs of teachers and respond efficiently and flexibly. Our systems and processes are simple and make exam organisation and reporting easy.
<b>Integrity.</b>	Our examination process is academically sound, impartial, transparent and delivers assessments which are consistent with international standards.
<b>Excellence.</b>	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.**

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## **SYLLABUS & EXAMINATION POLICY OVERVIEW**

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## **COURSE RATIONALE**

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**For performers** – The goal of ensemble performance is for all students to acquire a foundation in the performing arts. Working in the areas of genre, form, instrumentation, rhythm, expression, etc...students will become strong contributing members of their performance ensemble and gain lifelong skills.

Therefore, the ensemble examination is placed upon team work between members towards achieving the same goal. The spirit of non-competitive is extremely beneficial.

An Ensemble Performance Examination can be made of any form - a piano duet, string chamber, choir, guitar/ukulele ensemble, small orchestra, pop/jazz band, brass band, and many others.

Possible pathways after successful completion includes:

- Musician performing in a band, orchestra, choir or other ensemble
- 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 creative artist in composing and/or arranging music.
- Becoming a musician for live or recorded performance.

## **NUMBER OF MUSICIANS**

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The number of musicians can range from a minimum of 2 musicians to a maximum of 30 musicians.

## **GRADE LEVEL FOR ENSEMBLE EXAMINATIONS**

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Starting from Ensemble Step 1 (Preparatory) to Ensemble Grade 8. The standard required for each ensemble grade is equivalent to the grade of each instrument. For example: If an ensemble is made up of 2 violins, a piano and a cello then Ensemble Grade 1 will be equivalent to standard of Grade 1 violin, piano and cello.

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.

## **CHOICE OF PIECES**

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All ensemble examinations are solely based on performance. Therefore, no technical work, ear tests or sight reading are necessary. Parts should not be simply duplicated for each voice/instrument. E.g. All instruments/voices should not be playing/singing in unison/the same part throughout.

Candidates can play prepared arrangements according to the instruments in their ensemble. Otherwise, candidates can play their own arrangement or composition.

Candidates are required to submit a copy of the master score of the pieces and indicate the Grade of examination to the AGMS. The style, rhythm, technical difficulty and key signature of each individual instrument in the ensemble at any one level can be used as a benchmark to assess the level of difficulty of each ensemble grade.

## **PERFORMANCE TIME AND NUMBER OF PIECES**

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All performances should be at least 2/3 of the following required times:

*(E.g. minimum performance time for Grade 8 should be 30min)*

Step 1 (Preparatory) to Grade 2: 15min

Grade 3, 4 and 5: 20min

Grade 6: 30min

Grade 7: 40min

Grade 8: 45min

For Step 1 (Preparatory) to Grade 5: a minimum of 4 contrasting pieces.

For Grade 6 to 8: a minimum of 5 contrasting pieces.

Additional pieces are required if the total performance time does not meet 2/3 of the above required time.

The marks will be shared i.e. 10 marks each to make a total of 20 marks for that section.

## **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

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Candidates will be assessed as an ensemble under the following assessment criteria:

- Musical control & co-ordination
- Style, tone and interpretation
- Dynamic and phrasing
- Overall group presentation

Upon passing the ensemble examination, each musician will receive a group examination report and certificate.

## **EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS**

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- 1) Performance: (80% of total marks) – Candidates are required to perform contrasting pieces.
- 2) Programme Notes and General Impression: (20% of total marks) – Candidates for the Ensemble Exam should prepare a short folio together about each piece being played. This is given to the examiner when entering the examination room.

One candidate representative of the ensemble is required to announce the pieces performed, any special features of the pieces performed, and present as if for a performance.

## LEARNING GOALS

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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

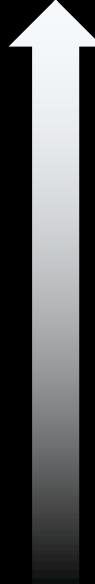
- For **step 1 to 3, grade 1 to grade 7**, the learning objective includes the ability to display fluent technique, a musical performance of works on the instruments/voice which consists of a solid rhythm, tone, and musicianship, clear introductions to pieces as you would expect in a concert and well-researched written programme notes and analysis of the works presented. Length and detail of the programme notes should reflect the grade entered.
- For **grade 8 to L.Mus** the learning objectives includes the ability to display an advanced musical performance on the instruments/voice with total control of all elements of musical performance, clear introductions to pieces as you would expect in a concert and a thoroughly well-researched written programme notes and analysis of the works presented.

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)
		Grade Eight (Proficiency Certificate)
		Grade Seven
		Grade Six
Grades	Advanced level of performance and technique	Grade Five
		Grade Four
		Grade Three
		Grade Two
Steps	Intermediate level of performance and technique	Grade One
		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.

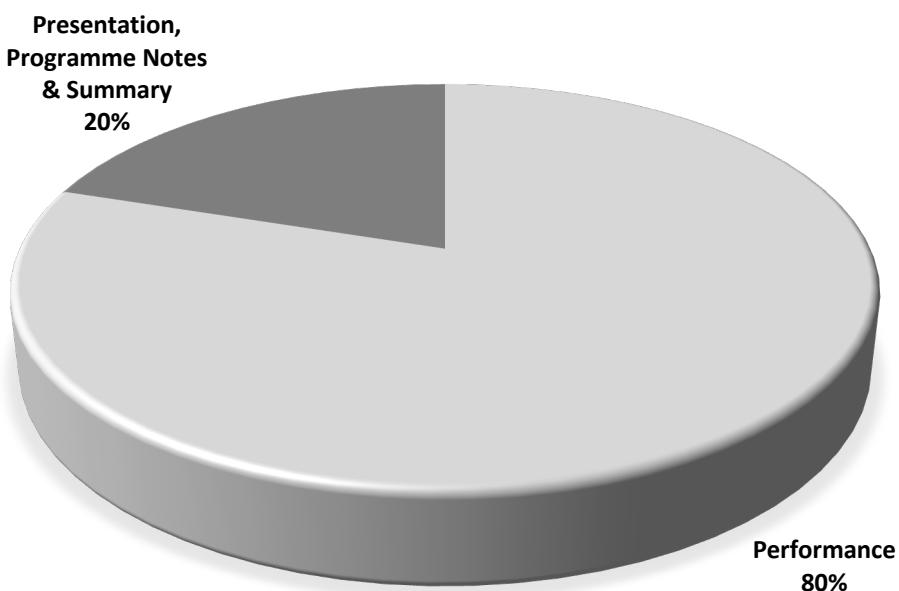
An audience may be present for Ensemble exams. Please let the office know of your intention to include an audience so allowances can be made in the timetable for this.

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 8 Overview**

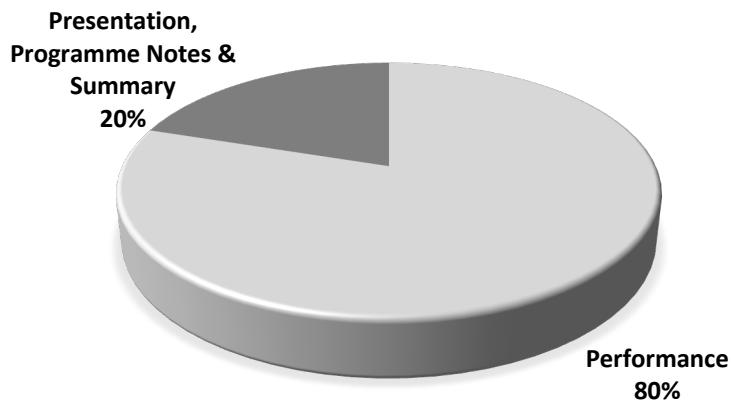


#### **Step 1 to Step 3, Grade 1 to Grade 5 Overview Marks (Weighting)**

SECTION	MARKS (WEIGHTING)	
Performance	List A (20 Marks)	80
	List B (20 Marks)	
	List C (20 Marks)	
	List D (20 Marks)	
Presentation, Programme Notes & Summary		20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

**Grade 6 to Grade 8 Marks (Weighting)**

SECTION	MARKS (WEIGHTING)
<b>Performance</b>	List A (16 Marks)
	List B (16 Marks)
	List C (16 Marks)
	List D (16 Marks)
	List E (16 Marks)
<b>Presentation, Programme Notes &amp; Summary</b>	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

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

SECTION	MARKS (WEIGHTING)
<b>Performance</b>	80
<b>Presentation, Programme Notes &amp; Summary</b>	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

**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 and grades as specified in this syllabus.

### Step 1 to Step 3, Grade 1 to Grade 5 Marking Scheme

Marking Band	A	B	C	NGS	
Mark Range	80-68	67-60	59-52	51-1	0
<b>Pieces</b> <b>List A:</b> <b>List B:</b> <b>List C:</b> <b>List D:</b> (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	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. Strong group dynamic.	Phrasing generally well controlled, with attention to details of expressiveness. Good group dynamic.	Some attention to phrasing, showing an awareness of the musical shape of the music. Generally adequate group dynamic.	An understanding of style and genre not demonstrated at all in the music. No group dynamic demonstrated.	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	20-17	16-15	14-13	12-1	0
<b>Programme Notes / General Impression</b> (20 Marks)	Programme is balanced with a variety of styles and genres presented, demonstrating the candidate's ability to play several styles.	Programme is mostly varied, but still retains a variety of styles to demonstrate the candidate's ability to play different styles.	Programme is reasonably varied with some variety in styles and composers.	Programme not varied, with little or no variety in styles or composers.	Programme notes not presented.
	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 and will introduce each piece for performance.	The candidate presents well as a performer and should still introduce each piece.	The candidate presents reasonably well as a performer and introduces each piece.	Candidate does not introduce each piece adequately, and 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 6 to Grade 8 Marking Scheme

Marking Band	A	B	C	NGS	
Mark Range	80-68	67-60	59-52	51-1	0
<b>Pieces</b> <b>List A:</b> <b>List B:</b> <b>List C:</b> <b>List D:</b> <b>List E:</b> (16 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	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. Strong group dynamic.	Good tonal awareness, and some attention to the details of the dynamics appropriate to the style. Good group dynamic.	Adequate attention to dynamics. Generally adequate group dynamic.	Dynamic range not appropriate for the music presented. No group dynamic demonstrated.	Not attempted.
Mark Range	20-17	16-15	14-13	12-1	0
<b>Programme Notes / General Impression</b> (20 Marks)	Programme is balanced with a variety of styles and genres presented, demonstrating the candidate's ability to play several styles.	Programme is mostly varied, but still retains a variety of styles to demonstrate the candidate's ability to play different styles.	Programme is reasonably varied with some variety in styles and composers.	Programme not varied, with little or no variety in styles or composers.	Programme notes not presented.
	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 and will introduce each piece for performance.	The candidate presents well as a performer and should still introduce each piece.	The candidate presents reasonably well as a performer and introduces each piece.	Candidate does not introduce each piece adequately, and 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	71-56	51-1	0
<b>Pieces</b> (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. Strong group dynamic.	Reasonable tempo and feel for the style of the music presented. Good group dynamic.	Tempo reasonable, without losing the sense of style of music presented. Generally adequate group dynamic.	Tempo incorrect for the style of music presented, indicating a lack of understanding of the music or insufficient technical skills. No group dynamic demonstrated.	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
<b>Programme Notes / General Impression</b> (20 Marks)	Programme is balanced with a variety of styles and genres presented, demonstrating the candidate's ability to play several styles.	Programme is mostly varied, but still retains a variety of styles to demonstrate the candidate's ability to play different styles.	Programme is reasonably varied with some variety in styles and composers.	Programme not varied, with little or no variety in styles or composers.	Programme notes not presented.
	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 and will introduce each piece for performance.	The candidate presents well as a performer and should still introduce each piece.	The candidate presents reasonably well as a performer and introduces each piece.	Candidate does not introduce each piece adequately and 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:

<b>LEVEL</b>	Grade Eight (Proficiency)	
	Grade Seven	
	Grade Six	
	Grade Five	
	Grade Four	
	Grade Three	
	Grade Two	
	Grade One	
	Step Three (Preliminary)	
	Step Two (Elementary)	
<b>MARK</b>	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.

## 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**

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### **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**

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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 CANIDATES**

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 ATTRIBTUES**

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### **IN-PERSON EXAMINATION**

At an in-person examination, you will be allocated a venue and a time by the AGMS admin. If you already have a venue, please contact the AGMS office. Please arrive 15 minutes before the allotted examination time and wait outside 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 and fully charged, has a clear view of the candidates 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 recorded with each piece in a separate video, or a one-take recording of the complete performance. No editing allowed. The video must clearly show all the candidates and have clear sound. Once completed – upload to Youtube, Ondrive or similar and email the link/s to the **AGMS** for examination.

### **ACCOMPANIMENTS FOR EXAMINATION**

All accompaniments are the responsibility of the teacher/conductor. If using a backing track, it is the responsibility of the teacher/conductor 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 approved by the **AGMS** Head Examiner. 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 they are 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 7. 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 Grade 8 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.

For piano candidates, Instruments which may be used are:

- **All Steps and Grades:** An acoustic piano which is tuned to concert pitch.
- **Step One (Preparatory) to Grade 4:** 88-note digital piano with weighted, touch sensitive keys with at least **one pedal** (sustain pedal). Digital pianos should be capable of the full dynamic range with clear, non-distorted sound across all dynamic ranges.
- **Grade 5 and up:** 88-note digital piano with weighted, touch sensitive keys with at least **two pedals** (sustain and soft pedals). Digital pianos should be capable of the full dynamic range with clear, non-distorted sound across all dynamic ranges.
- A keyboard with touch sensitive keys and a minimum polyphony of 64 notes may be used up to grade two.

### 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.

## **PENCIL MARKS**

All references to time, keys, modulations, form, word, or sign meanings, or similar teaching aids, must be completely erased from each piece of music before entering the examination room. Essential marks relative to performance may remain.

## **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**

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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**

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### **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**

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**PERFORMANCE ANY INSTRUMENT: PREPARATORY & ELEMENTARY**

Examination Time: 15 minutes

Minimum pass mark: 65%

**REPERTOIRE****80 Marks**

Four contrasting pieces to be performed in total.

- Candidates may perform pieces from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level with existing ensemble parts/arrangements.

**OR**

- Select a Program of their OWN CHOICE of the appropriate level of difficulty.

**PRESENTATION, PROGRAMME NOTES AND SUMMARY****20 Marks**

- One candidate representative of the ensemble is required to announce the pieces performed.
- Special features of the pieces performed may be mentioned.
- The Ensemble should present as if for a performance.

Presentation and suitable dress for the occasion will be taken into account.

**PROGRAMME NOTES**

Programme Notes should be prepared by the ensemble and presented at the examination/online. These should be a professionally presented list of:

- Titles of pieces arranged in the order of performance.
- The name of each composer or arranger.

**TOTAL****100 Marks**

**PERFORMANCE ANY INSTRUMENT: PRELIMINARY, GRADES ONE & TWO**

Examination Time: 15 minutes

Minimum pass mark: 65%

**REPERTOIRE****80 Marks**

Four Pieces to be performed in total.

- Candidates may perform pieces from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level with existing ensemble parts/arrangements.

**OR**

- Select a Program of their OWN CHOICE of the appropriate level of difficulty and of a suitable length.

**PRESENTATION, PROGRAMME NOTES AND SUMMARY****20 Marks**

- One candidate representative of the ensemble is required to announce the pieces performed.
- Special features and information about the pieces performed should be mentioned.
- The Ensemble should present as if for a performance.

Presentation and suitable dress for the occasion will be taken into account.

**PROGRAMME NOTES**

Programme Notes should be prepared by the ensemble and presented at the examination/online. These should be a professionally presented list of:

- Titles of pieces arranged in the order of performance.
- The name of each composer or arranger.

**TOTAL****100 Marks**

**PERFORMANCE ANY INSTRUMENT: GRADES THREE, FOUR & FIVE**

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Examination Time: 20 minutes

Minimum pass mark: 65%

**REPERTOIRE****80 Marks**

A balanced program of four pieces, with a variety of musical periods and styles to be performed.

- Candidates may perform pieces from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level with existing ensemble parts/arrangements.

**OR**

- Select a Program of their OWN CHOICE of the appropriate level of difficulty and of a suitable length.

**PRESENTATION, PROGRAMME NOTES AND SUMMARY****20 Marks**

- One candidate representative of the ensemble is required to announce the pieces performed.
- Special features and information about the pieces performed should be mentioned.
- The Ensemble should present as if for a performance.

Presentation and suitable dress for the occasion will be taken into account.

**PROGRAMME NOTES**

Programme Notes giving details about the pieces should be prepared by the ensemble and presented at the examination/online.

These should show evidence of research and give details as to:

- Composers
- Style/Period of music.
- Formal Analysis.
- Keys and modulations.
- Any interesting features of the piece.

**TOTAL****100 Marks**

**PERFORMANCE ANY INSTRUMENT: GRADE SIX**

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Examination Time: 30 minutes

Minimum pass mark: 65%

**REPERTOIRE****80 Marks**

A balanced program of five pieces, with a variety of musical periods and styles to be performed.

- Candidates may perform pieces from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level with existing ensemble parts/arrangements.

**OR**

- Select a Program of their OWN CHOICE of the appropriate level of difficulty and of a suitable length.

**PRESENTATION, PROGRAMME NOTES AND SUMMARY****20 Marks**

- One candidate representative of the ensemble is required to announce the pieces performed.
- Special features, information and/or history of the pieces performed should be mentioned.
- The Ensemble should present as if for a performance.

Presentation and suitable dress for the occasion will be taken into account.

**PROGRAMME NOTES**

Programme Notes giving details about the pieces should be prepared by the ensemble and presented at the examination/online.

These should show evidence of research and give details as to:

- Information about the composers.
- Characteristics of the Era of music and composers of those periods.
- Formal Analysis.
- Keys and modulations.
- Any special features of the pieces.

**TOTAL****100 Marks**

**PERFORMANCE ANY INSTRUMENT: GRADE SEVEN**

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Examination Time: 40 minutes

Minimum pass mark: 65%

**REPERTOIRE****80 Marks**

A balanced program of five pieces, with a variety of musical periods and styles to be performed.

- Candidates may perform pieces from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level with existing ensemble parts/arrangements.

**OR**

- Select a Program of their OWN CHOICE of the appropriate level of difficulty and of a suitable length.

**PRESENTATION, PROGRAMME NOTES AND SUMMARY****20 Marks**

- One candidate representative of the ensemble is required to announce the pieces performed.
- Special features, information and/or history of the pieces performed should be mentioned.
- The Ensemble should present as if for a performance.

Presentation and suitable dress for the occasion will be taken into account.

**PROGRAMME NOTES**

Programme Notes giving details about the pieces should be prepared by the ensemble and presented at the examination/online.

These should show evidence of research and give details as to:

- Information about the composers
- Characteristics of the Era of music and composers of those periods.
- Formal Analysis
- Keys and modulations
- Any special features of the piece.

**TOTAL****100 Marks**

## **PERFORMANCE ANY INSTRUMENT: GRADE EIGHT**

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Examination Time: 45 minutes

Minimum pass mark: 65%

### **REPERTOIRE**

**80 Marks**

A balanced program of five pieces, with a variety of musical periods and styles to be performed.

It is suggested that candidates submit their program for approval from the AGMS prior to entering this examination.

Performance time of approximately 30 minutes including the spoken introduction of pieces.

- Candidates may perform pieces from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level with existing ensemble parts/arrangements.

**OR**

- Select a Program of their OWN CHOICE of the appropriate level of difficulty and of a suitable length.

### **PRESENTATION, PROGRAMME NOTES AND SUMMARY**

**20 Marks**

- One candidate representative of the ensemble is required to announce the pieces performed.
- Special features, information and/or history of the pieces performed should be mentioned.
- The Ensemble should present as if for a performance.

Presentation and suitable dress for the occasion will be taken into account.

### **PROGRAMME NOTES**

Programme Notes giving details about the pieces should be prepared by the ensemble and presented at the examination/online.

These should show evidence of research and give details as to:

- Information about the composers
- Characteristics of the Era of music and composers of those periods.
- Formal Analysis
- Keys and modulations
- Any special features of the piece.

Suitability of dress, clear speech and presentation will be taken into account.

### **TOTAL**

**100 Marks**

**PERFORMANCE ANY INSTRUMENT: CERTIFICATE C.Mus.AGMS**

Examination Time: 45 minutes

Minimum pass mark: 70%

**NOTES**

- The examination will consist of an approximately 30-minute recital including the spoken introduction of pieces.
- It is suggested that candidates submit their program for approval from the AGMS prior to entering this examination.
- Teachers and Candidates may invite an audience to attend.
- Programme notes must be submitted to examiners at the examination or online.
- No pre-requisite is required. It is recommended that candidates should have achieved Grade Eight or equivalent before entering for this Certificate.

**PERFORMANCE****80 Marks**

Candidates are to perform a balanced program with a variety of styles and moods, using works chosen from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list with existing ensemble parts/arrangements, at the corresponding level or higher.

**OR**

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

- Material should be technically demanding and show a musical understanding of the styles selected.
- Time limits must be considered when choosing the program.

**PRESENTATION, PROGRAMME NOTES AND SUMMARY****20 Marks**

- One candidate representative of the ensemble is required to announce the pieces performed.
- Special features, information and/or history of the pieces performed should be mentioned.
- The Ensemble should present as if for a performance.

Presentation and suitable dress for the occasion will be taken into account.

**PROGRAMME NOTES**

Detailed Programme Notes giving details about the pieces should be prepared by the ensemble and presented at the examination/online.

These should show evidence of research and give details as to:

- Information about the composers
- Characteristics of the Era of music and composers of those periods.
- Formal Analysis
- Keys and modulations
- Any special features of the piece.
- Presentation in the style of a professional concert programme is expected.

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of the Certificate will be to provide a goal for those wishing to extend their skills in the performance of music.

The ensemble should present a stylistic and accurate performance showing the ability to manage their vocal or instrumental resources effectively, and to present a high level of Communication and group dynamic.

**ACADEMIC DRESS**

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

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**TOTAL****100 Marks**

**PERFORMANCE ANY INSTRUMENT: ASSOCIATE DIPLOMA A.Mus.AGMS**

Examination Time: 50 minutes

Minimum pass mark: 70%

**NOTES**

- Candidates should prepare a Program of approximately 35 minutes performance time including the spoken introduction of pieces.
- A concert standard of performance will be expected.
- Candidates are to present a balanced program with contrasting styles and moods.
- The Program selected must be submitted to the AGMS for approval prior to entry.
- Teachers and Candidates may invite an audience to attend.
- Programme notes are required and should be submitted to examiners at the examination or online.
- Candidates are to provide a copy of each work for the use of examiners.
- No pre-requisite is required. As a guide it is recommended that candidates should have achieved a Performance Certificate or equivalent before entering for this Diploma.

**PERFORMANCE****80 Marks**

A balanced program using works chosen from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level or higher with existing ensemble parts/arrangements.

**OR**

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

- Material should be technically demanding and show a musical understanding of the styles selected.
- At least one large scale work should be included.
- Programme notes must be presented at the examination or online.
- Time limits must be considered when choosing the program.
- Candidates electing to improvise or write their own arrangements should use the set arrangements as a guide to ensure the level of difficulty and stylistic elements are maintained.

**PRESENTATION, PROGRAMME NOTES AND SUMMARY****20 Marks**

- One candidate representative of the ensemble is required to announce the pieces performed.
- Special features, information and/or history of the pieces performed should be mentioned.
- The Ensemble should present as if for a performance.

Presentation and suitable dress for the occasion will be taken into account.

**PROGRAMME NOTES**

Detailed Programme Notes giving details about the pieces should be prepared by the ensemble and presented at the examination/online.

These should show evidence of research and give details as to:

- Information about the composers
- Characteristics of the Era of music and composers of those periods.
- Formal Analysis
- Keys and modulations
- Any special features of the piece.
- Presentation in the style of a professional concert programme is expected.

**ACADEMIC DRESS**

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

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**TOTAL****100 Marks**

**PERFORMANCE ANY INSTRUMENT: LICENTIATE DIPLOMA L.Mus.AGMS**

Examination Time: 60 minutes

Minimum pass mark: 70%

**NOTES**

- Candidates should prepare a program of 45-minutes minimum performance time including the spoken introduction of pieces.
- A concert standard of performance will be expected.
- No pre-requisite is required. It is recommended that candidates should have achieved an Associate Diploma or equivalent before entering for the Licentiate Diploma.
- Candidates are to present a balanced program with contrasting styles and moods.
- The Program selected must be submitted to the AGMS for approval prior to entry.
- Teachers and Candidates may invite an audience to attend.
- Programme notes are required and should be submitted to examiners at the examination.
- Candidates are to provide a copy of each work for the use of examiners.

**PERFORMANCE****80 Marks**

A balanced program using works chosen from any current AGMS syllabus repertoire list at the corresponding level or higher.

**OR**

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

- Material should be technically demanding and show a musical understanding of the styles selected.
- At least one large scale work should be included.
- Programme notes must be presented at the examination or online.
- Time limits must be considered when choosing the program.
- Candidates electing to improvise or write their own arrangements should use the other works at this level as a guide to ensure the level of difficulty and stylistic elements are maintained.

**PRESENTATION, PROGRAMME NOTES AND SUMMARY****20 Marks**

- One candidate representative of the ensemble is required to announce the pieces performed.
- Special features, information and/or history of the pieces performed should be mentioned.
- The Ensemble should present as if for a performance.

Presentation and suitable dress for the occasion will be taken into account.

**PROGRAMME NOTES**

Detailed Programme Notes giving details about the pieces should be prepared by the ensemble and presented at the examination/online.

These should show evidence of research and give details as to:

- Information about the composers
- Characteristics of the Era of music and composers of those periods.
- Formal Analysis
- Keys and modulations
- Any special features of the piece.
- Presentation in the style of a professional concert programme is expected.

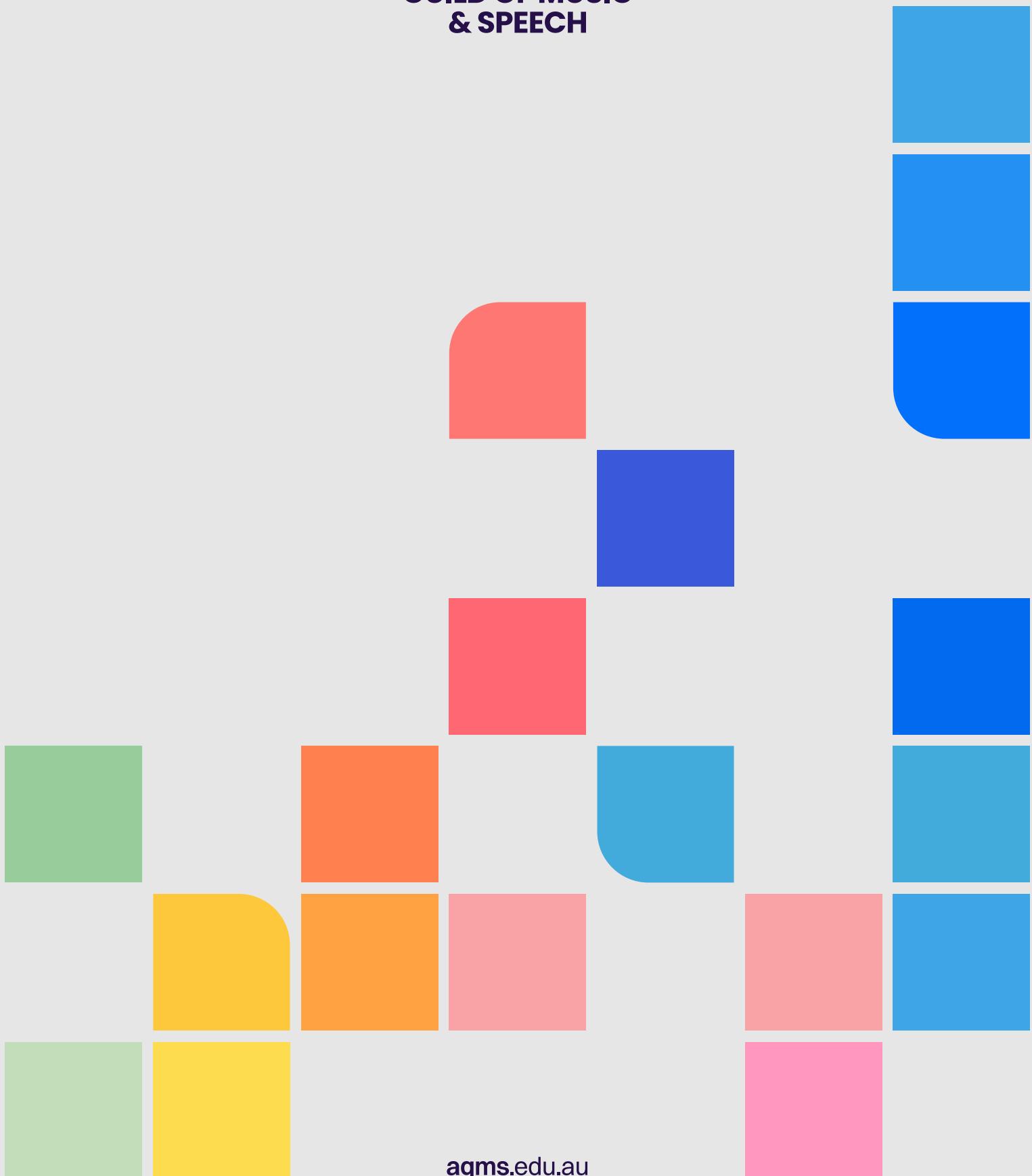
**ACADEMIC DRESS**

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

**TOTAL****100 Marks**



**AUSTRALIAN  
GUILD OF MUSIC  
& SPEECH**



[agms.edu.au](http://agms.edu.au)