



AUSTRALIAN
GUILD OF MUSIC
& SPEECH

Piano Exam Pathways

**Step One Preparatory to
Grade Eight Proficiency to
Certificate & Diplomas**

A helpful guide to **AGMS** piano exam choices,
requirements and enrolment options.

Comprehensive

Pianoforte, Contemporary Piano &
Light Classical Piano

Repertoire

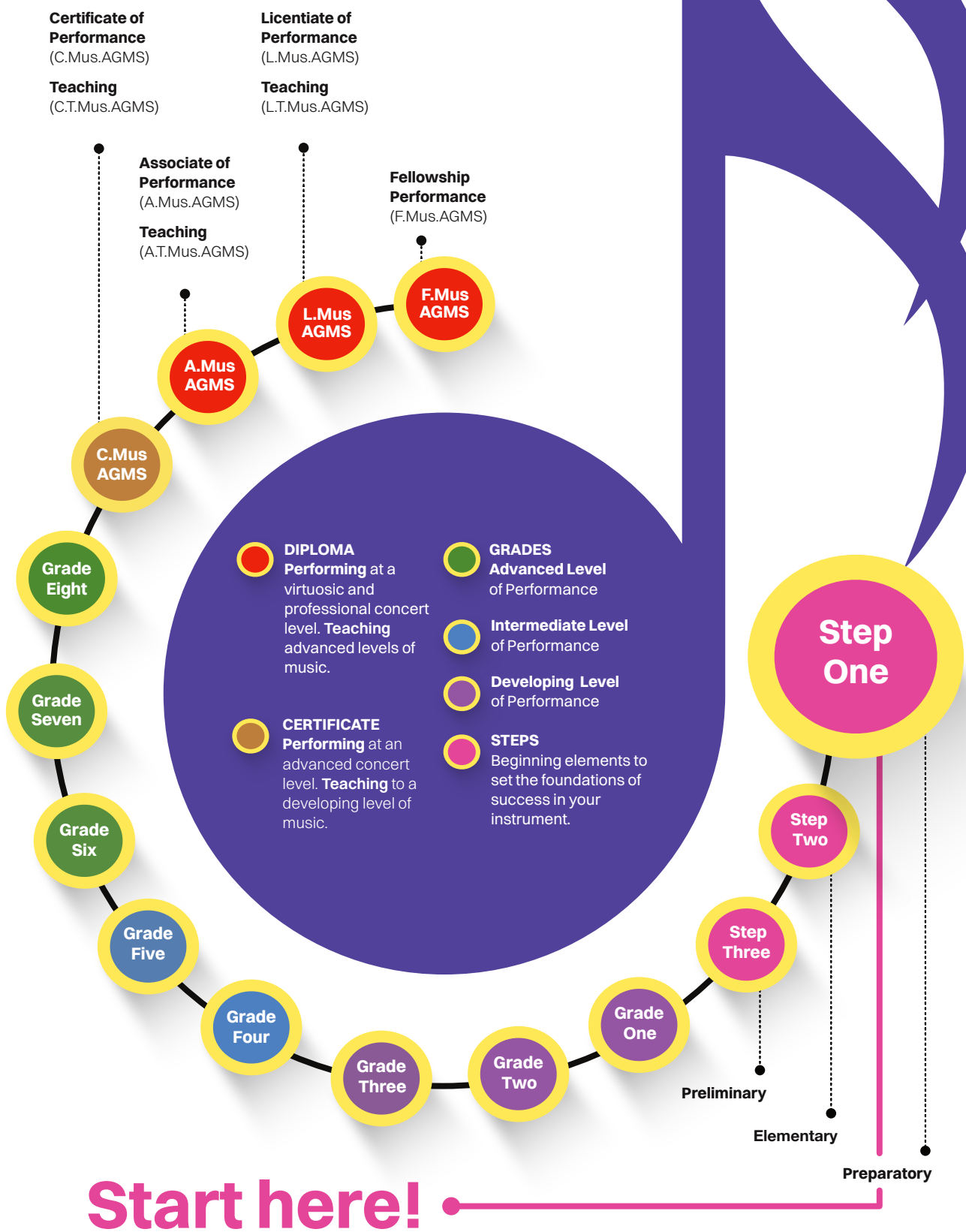
Performance, Recording Artist &
Adult Musician

Flexible Delivery

Live in-person, live online, or
recorded

agms.edu.au

Your Journey of Success



Welcome

Since 1969, **AGMS** has supported music and speech education through flexible, accessible and forward-thinking examination pathways. This document outlines the requirements for Comprehensive Exams in **Pianoforte**, **Contemporary Piano** and **Light Classical Piano**, as well as Repertoire Exams including **Performance**, **Recording Artist** and **Adult Musician** pathways.

AGMS has a proud history of innovation, introducing digital reports and recorded video examination options in the 1990s. Then in the late 2010s, **AGMS** expanded further with live online examinations and written theory on demand. In the 2020s, **AGMS** continues to lead with modern digital resources, **QR-supported** learning pages, optional backing tracks, flexible enrolment options and examination pathways designed for today's students and teachers.

AGMS examinations are practical, modern and educationally appropriate. Teachers can choose the pathway that best suits each student, while students benefit from relevant repertoire, supportive assessment and pathways that recognise both traditional achievement and modern musical learning.

As a not-for-profit charity, **AGMS** actively gives back to the community through outreach performances, educational initiatives, scholarships and mentoring for **Teacher of Music** qualifications. A key strength of **AGMS** is that our directors, examiners and many team members are active educators working directly with students, helping keep our syllabi, resources and expectations relevant, realistic and connected to today's studios, while reflecting our shared passion for education, the arts and culture.

Bradley Eustace

Chair, Board of Directors

M.Mus.Tech., Grad.Dip.Mus.Tech.,
Ad.Dip.Ed.Tech., F.Mus.AGMS.,
L.Mus.A., A.Mus.A., A.Y.M.F.
[Piano/Electone]



Helen Little

Director

M.Ed. (Music Studies),
Grad.Dip of Music Teaching,
Examiner's Diploma AGM



Denise Collins

Director

F.Mus.AGMS, FACM, A.T.Mus.A.,
A.Mus.A., P.P.Dip.Guild., Ex.Cert.Guild.



Contact us

hello@agms.edu.au



Innovating Since 1969

Pioneering assessment innovation for nearly six decades.



Across Australia and Asia

Supporting students, teachers and studios across broad communities.



Flexible Examination Pathways

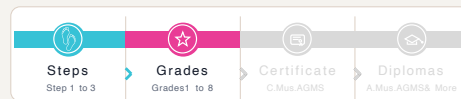
Live, live online and recorded options designed to support every learner.

All information in this document is based on the **2026 AGMS syllabi** and may be subject to change. Please refer to the current syllabi at agms.edu.au for the most up-to-date information.

Comprehensive Piano Exams

An outline of the requirements for Step One Preparatory to Grade Eight Proficiency assessments.

Download the complete syllabi from agms.edu.au for more detail.



Pianoforte

TECHNICAL WORK

Yes for all Steps/Grades.

LIST PIECES

Step One Preparatory to

Grade Five: 3 pieces

Grade Six to

Grade Eight Proficiency: 4 pieces

Any combination of Studies, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th/21st-century Modern, Australian works and own choice.

SIGHT-READING & EAR TESTS

Both sight-reading and ear tests.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Yes. Asked in the exam, or prepared as written programme notes.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

N/A

ENROLMENT OPTIONS

Live in-person, live online or recorded — all in one unedited take. Contact **AGMS** before recording for supporting tests.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Piano Mastery — digital workbooks for Technical Work, Sight-Reading & Ear Tests.

Piano Odyssey Repertoire Albums

Contemporary Piano

TECHNICAL WORK

Yes up to Grade Seven — slightly reduced technical work requirements when compared with Pianoforte.

None for Grade Eight Proficiency.

LIST PIECES

Step One Preparatory to

Grade Five: 3 pieces

Grade Six to Grade Seven: 4 pieces

Grade Eight Proficiency: 5 pieces

Select contrasting works from the repertoire list, including contemporary, modern and Australian works, or own choice.

SIGHT-READING & EAR TESTS

Either sight-reading or ear tests up to **Grade Seven. None for Grade Eight.**

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Yes up to Grade Seven — same as Pianoforte. **Grade Eight Proficiency:** prepared written programme notes.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

From Grade Eight Proficiency — Announce each piece clearly and present in a performance style.

ENROLMENT OPTIONS

Same options as Pianoforte.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Piano Mastery — digital workbooks for Technical Work, Sight-Reading & Ear Tests.

Piano Odyssey Repertoire Albums

Light Classical Piano

TECHNICAL WORK

Yes up to Grade Seven — the same technical work requirements as Contemporary Piano.

None for Grade Eight Proficiency.

LIST PIECES

Step One Preparatory to

Grade Five: 3 pieces

Grade Six to Grade Seven: 4 pieces

Grade Eight Proficiency: 5 pieces

Select contrasting works from a repertoire list including classical, modern and Australian works, or own choice.

SIGHT-READING & EAR TESTS

Either sight-reading or ear tests up to **Grade Seven. None for Grade Eight.**

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Yes up to Grade Seven — same as Pianoforte. **Grade Eight Proficiency:** prepared written programme notes.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

From Grade Eight Proficiency — Announce each piece clearly and present in a performance style.

ENROLMENT OPTIONS

Same options as Pianoforte.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

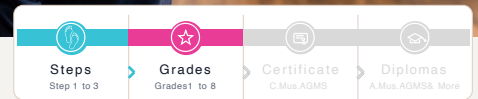
Piano Mastery — digital workbooks for Technical Work, Sight-Reading & Ear Tests.

Piano Odyssey Repertoire Albums



Repertoire Piano Exams

An outline of the requirements for Step One Preparatory to Grade Eight Proficiency assessments. Download the complete syllabi from agms.edu.au.



Performance

TECHNICAL WORK

None

LIST PIECES

Step One Preparatory to Grade Five: 4 pieces

Grade Six to Grade Eight Proficiency: 5 pieces

Present contrasting works, selected from Pianoforte, Contemporary Piano, Light Classical Piano, or own choice.

SIGHT-READING & EAR TESTS

None

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Written document only.

Step One Preparatory to Grade Two: list the works and composers.

Grade Three to Grade Eight Proficiency: plus information about the style/period, composer and analysis.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Announce each piece clearly and present in a performance style.

ENROLMENT OPTIONS

Live in-person, live online or recorded — all in one unedited take.

Recording Artist

TECHNICAL WORK

None

LIST PIECES

All Steps/Grades: 3 pieces.

Present contrasting works, selected from Pianoforte, Contemporary Piano, Light Classical Piano, or own choice.

SIGHT-READING & EAR TESTS

None

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Electronic written submission only.

Step One Preparatory to Grade Two: name of the piece and composer.

Grade Three to Grade Eight Proficiency: plus a brief descriptive text about the performance.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Present each piece with suitable attire, style and entertainment value.

ENROLMENT OPTIONS

Video **recorded** only, with each piece recorded separately.

Adult Musician

TECHNICAL WORK

Step One Preparatory to Step Three Preliminary: 3 scales.*

Grade One to Grade Seven: 3 scales and 3 arpeggios.*

None for Grade Eight Proficiency.

* Keys based on presented pieces.

LIST PIECES

Step One Preparatory to Grade Seven: 3 pieces.

Grade Eight Proficiency: 4 pieces. Present contrasting works, selected from Pianoforte, Contemporary Piano, Light Classical Piano, or own choice.

SIGHT-READING & EAR TESTS

None

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

None

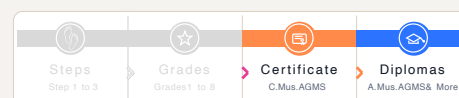
GENERAL IMPRESSION

Appropriate attire, confidence and performance flair.

ENROLMENT OPTIONS

Live in-person, live online or recorded — all in one unedited take or as separate videos for each piece.

Certificate & Diploma Piano Exams



An outline of the requirements from the Certificate of Music Performance — C.Mus.AGMS, Associate of Music Performance — A.Mus.AGMS to Licentiate of Music Performance — L.Mus.AGMS assessments. Download the complete syllabi from agms.edu.au.

Pianoforte

LIST PIECES

C.Mus.AGMS: 25 minute recital
A.Mus.AGMS: 4 pieces, 30 minute to 40 minute recital
L.Mus.AGMS: 4 pieces, 30 minute to 40 minute recital
 Any combination of Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th/21st-century Modern, Australian works and own choice.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Written document only: Analysis and information about the style, period and composer.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Announce each piece clearly and present in a performance style.

ENROLMENT OPTIONS

Live in-person, live online or recorded — all in one unedited take.

Contemporary Piano

LIST PIECES

C.Mus.AGMS: 25 minute recital
A.Mus.AGMS: 30 minute to 40 minute recital
L.Mus.AGMS: 35 minute to 45 minute recital
 Select contrasting works from the repertoire list, including contemporary, modern and Australian works, or own choice.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Written document only: Analysis and information about the style, period and composer.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Announce each piece clearly and present in a performance style.

ENROLMENT OPTIONS

Live in-person, live online or recorded — all in one unedited take.

Light Classical Piano

LIST PIECES

C.Mus.AGMS: 25 minute recital
A.Mus.AGMS: 30 minute to 40 minute recital
L.Mus.AGMS: 35 minute to 45 minute recital
 Select contrasting works from a repertoire list including classical, modern and Australian works, or own choice.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Written document only: Analysis and information about the style, period and composer.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Announce each piece clearly and present in a performance style.

ENROLMENT OPTIONS

Live in-person, live online or recorded — all in one unedited take.

Performance

LIST PIECES

C.Mus.AGMS: 25 minute to 35 minute recital
A.Mus.AGMS: 30 minute to 40 minute recital
L.Mus.AGMS: 35 minute to 45 minute recital
 Select contrasting works.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Written document only: Analysis and information about the style, period and composer.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Announce each piece clearly and present in a performance style.

ENROLMENT OPTIONS

Live in-person, live online or recorded — all in one unedited take.

Recording Artist

LIST PIECES

C.Mus.AGMS: 25 minute to 35 minute total performance
A.Mus.AGMS: 30 minute to 40 minute total performance
L.Mus.AGMS: 35 minute to 45 minute total performance
 Select contrasting works.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Written document only: Analysis and information about the style, period and composer.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Announce each piece clearly and present in a performance style.

ENROLMENT OPTIONS

Video **recorded** only, with each piece recorded separately.

Adult Musician

LIST PIECES

C.Mus.AGMS: 25 minute to 35 minute total performance
A.Mus.AGMS: 30 minute to 40 minute total performance
L.Mus.AGMS: 35 minute to 45 minute total performance
 Select contrasting works.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Written document only: Analysis and information about the style, period and composer.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

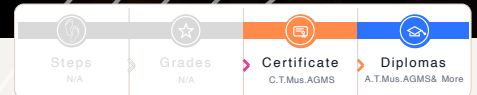
Announce each piece clearly and present in a performance style.

ENROLMENT OPTIONS

Live in-person, live online or recorded — all in one unedited take or as separate videos for each piece.



Teacher of Music



A dynamic pathway for teachers developing confident piano pedagogy.

The **AGMS Teacher of Music** programmes provide a clear pathway for new and experienced teachers to develop, recognise and demonstrate teaching expertise across all stages of student development. From **C.T.Mus.AGMS**, through **A.T.Mus.AGMS**, to the advanced standard of **L.T.Mus.AGMS**, each qualification supports broad musical understanding, strong pedagogy, technical guidance, repertoire awareness and age-appropriate student development.

These programmes are ideal for new teachers seeking structure, confidence and direction, as well as established teachers wishing to formalise their experience, expand their professional standing and align their teaching with flexible, relevant **AGMS** standards.

To discover the **AGMS Teacher of Music** requirements, refer to the back section of any **AGMS** syllabus, available from agms.edu.au.



Scholarship Available *

One-on-one mentoring, folio guidance and practical support for teaching qualification preparation.

agms.edu.au/scholarship

C.T.Mus.AGMS
Certificate of Teaching



Develops foundational teaching skills for guiding students from **beginner** levels through to **Grade Two**, with a focus on lesson planning, studio setup and effective early-stage pedagogy.

A.T.Mus.AGMS
Associate Diploma of Teaching



Builds intermediate teaching expertise for guiding students from **Grade Three** to **Grade Six** with greater depth in technique, motivation and musical development.


L.T.Mus.AGMS
Licentiate Diploma of Teaching




Develops advanced teaching mastery, focusing on students from **Grade Seven** through to **Certificate** level with high-level pedagogical insight and examination preparation.

Why teachers value these programmes


Mentoring, reflection and pedagogical growth for developing music teachers.



Mentoring
One-on-one guidance to support preparation and confidence.



Pedagogical focus
Develop teaching strategies, observation skills and studio practice.



Folio development
Refine written materials and practical teaching presentation.

* Scholarship places are limited. Eligibility and availability are subject to AGMS approval.

Enrolment and Delivery Options

Live in-person exams

- Enter at least 4 weeks before the exam.
- Capital cities can use selected **AGMS** examination studios with no minimum examination time required.
- For your own studio, school or regional area, a minimum of 3 hours of examining per session is required.
- Please discuss regional entries with the **AGMS** administration before entering to assist with scheduling.

Live online exams

- Enter at least 2 weeks before the exam.
- Available anywhere.
- Candidates must have access to high-speed internet and a smart device or good-quality laptop with a microphone and camera.

Recorded exams

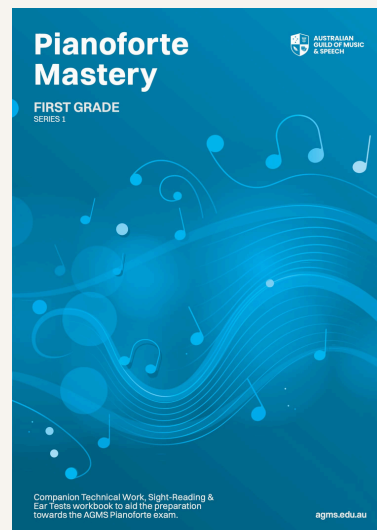
- Submit only after recording.
- **Record** the exam first, then upload the recording to YouTube as unlisted, OneDrive, Google Drive, Dropbox, or similar.
- Provide the shared link when entering the online enrolment form.
- **Recording a comprehensive exam?** Contact **AGMS** before recording to arrange supporting tests, including technical work questions, sight-reading, ear tests and general knowledge.



Considering switching to AGMS exams?

AGMS makes it easy. Talk to us about flexible, teacher-friendly options, including transition support designed to assist your students and your studio.

Available Resources



Piano Odyssey features engaging repertoire, fresh arrangements, Australian music, **QR-supported** learning pages, optional backing tracks and general knowledge activities, while **Piano Mastery** supports technical work, aural, sight-reading and exam preparation across **AGMS** piano levels.

Piano Odyssey is available through participating print music retailers, while both **Piano Odyssey** and **Piano Mastery** can be explored online at shop.agms.edu.au.