

# SYLLABUS

## Part One - Music

### Performance

#### A. HYMN

Candidates should sing three verses (of their own choice and in their own voice part) from a prepared hymn - the verses having more than four lines. The third verse to be sung unaccompanied.

#### B. PSALM

- i. Prepare eight verses of a psalm to be sung to an Anglican double chant from a psalter of the candidate's choice, or  
four verses with Antiphon of a responsorial psalm, or  
up to eight verses and Gloria of a psalm to a plainsong tone.
- ii. Then to the same chant or tone sing four verses of a different psalm chosen by the examiner from the candidate's book.

#### C. ANTHEM, MOTET, CANTICLE, OR SERVICE SETTING

Candidates are to prepare the whole, of their own voice part, of one anthem, motet, canticle, or service setting specified in the music list for the respective year. Please note that a new list is produced at the beginning of every calendar year, and is therefore only effective for the two examinations of the year in which it is produced. The examiner will ask the candidate to sing all or part of the piece. Marks awarded will take account of the level of difficulty of the music, but more weight will be given to interpretation and musicality.

*NB: COPIES OF ALL MUSIC MUST BE PROVIDED FOR THE EXAMINER. IN THE EVENT OF COPIES NOT BEING PROVIDED THE CANDIDATE MAY LOSE MARKS.*

Throughout the above tests, the examiner will be looking for:

- a. an unforced quality of tone with consistent control
- b. good posture
- c. good breath control with the ability to sustain to the end of a phrase
- d. clear diction including good open vowel sounds
- e. accurate intonation
- f. rhythmic accuracy
- g. good expressive and dynamic contrasts
- h. evidence of comprehension of the text and mood of the piece

All of the above should produce a sensitive and musical performance, and evidence of a maturity of tone appropriate to the candidate's age and experience.

### Musical Skills and Understanding

#### D. SIGHT-SINGING

The candidate will be asked to sing unaccompanied tests to a vowel sound. Before each test the examiner will play the key chord and first note, wait while the candidate looks through the music and then play once more the key chord and first note. The candidate will then be expected to sing continuously. More marks will be gained, the less assistance needed from the piano.

The tests will be, in their own voice part -

- i. a double chant in a major or minor key.

- ii. four bars of a hymn tune in a major key.
- iii. four bars of the lower part of a two part tune provided by the examiner, with accompaniment, within the candidate's vocal range. The examiner will first play the four bars of the tune to the candidate while the candidate follows the lower line, then give the starting note.

#### **E. EAR TESTS**

- i. clap the rhythmic pattern of a short melody; the examiner will play the passage twice.
- ii. sing a short melody; the key chord and passage will be played twice by the examiner.
- iii. sing an interval of a major or minor 3rd or 6th; perfect 4th or 5th or octave, above a given key note.
- iv. sing as requested by the examiner the lower, middle, or upper note of a triad, in root or first inversion., and then identify the triad as major or minor.

#### **F. VIVA VOCE**

The examiner will show the candidate a piece of music and ask questions which will test the candidate's understanding of some or all of the following:

major and minor key signatures up to five accidentals ,note values; time signatures, simple and compound,; some common Italian terms; letter names of treble and bass clef notes; musical signs.

The candidate will then be asked simple questions on repertoire, i.e. the candidate's chosen test piece. The questions will include:-

- a little knowledge about the composer
- the style of the period
- the meaning of the text
- an appropriate time for its use in Church.
- another piece by the composer
- another piece in the same style

Candidates for this Award (validated to RSCM Silver Standard) and their choir trainers are advised to refer to the section on repertoire knowledge, page 192- 214, in the Voice for Life Choir Trainers book (published 2004)), including some sample answers at RED level on pp 204 - 206. This material will be the point of reference for examiners.

**TOTAL MARKS FOR PART ONE: 100 (60)**