

London College of Music Examinations

Music Theatre

Requirements for Recorded Exams:
Steps, Grades 1-8

Valid from:
Spring 2020 until further notice

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1. Overview

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, London College of Music Examinations is offering recorded alternatives in order to assess the work candidates have prepared for the Spring 2020 exam session.

The following exam alternative provides the opportunity for the assessment of musical performance, whereby candidates upload a video file of their performance, rather than attending an examination venue. Performances are assessed by trained LCME examiners, using the same standards and criteria as are used for face-to-face, live exams. This offers candidates a reliable, independent, regulated assessment of their performance standard, while benefitting from the flexibility allowed by the submission process.

2. Entry Details

Candidates entered for a face-to-face exam may choose to switch to a recorded exam at no additional cost. Once candidates have recorded their exams, they can be uploaded via the LCME website. Please see *submission guidelines* (page 4) for details.

3. Recorded Exam Requirements

3.1 Steps and Grades 1-7

A recorded submission alternative for candidates who have entered for Step and Grade 1-7 exams.

Component 1: Performance

(90 marks)

Performance of songs as per the guidelines outlined in the LCME Music Theatre Syllabus

- at Step 1 to Grade 2 candidates perform two songs
- at Grade 3 to 5 candidates perform three songs including at least one song written before 1960
- at Grade 6 and 7 candidates perform four songs. Grade 7 candidates should perform one song which includes, or is preceded or followed by, a section of spoken libretto, in character (the same character as the song), of approximately 30 seconds to 1 minute. See the LCME Music Theatre Syllabus for further details.

Component 2: Discussion

(10 marks)

Set questions for each grade in response to a piece chosen by the candidate. Candidates should present their responses orally before or after playing the selected piece. (see *Technical Work and Discussion Requirements* on the LCME website for details on the Discussion component)

Weighting for examination components

Performance	Discussion
90 %	10 %

Assessment

Performances are assessed according to the same standards and criteria as for LCME's face-to-face exams. Refer to the details listed under Performance, in the section *How marks are awarded* in the relevant syllabus.

Regulation

Grades 1-8 of LCME's recorded exams are regulated in England by Ofqual, and by the corresponding authorities in Wales (Qualifications Wales) and Northern Ireland (CCEA). They have been placed on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) at Levels 1, 2 and 3.

Submission

Please see *submission guidelines* (page 4)

3.2 Grade 8

Component 1: Performance

(60 marks)

Performance of four songs as per the guidelines outlined in the LCME Music Theatre syllabus. Candidates should perform one song which includes, or is preceded or followed by, a section of spoken libretto, in character (the same character as the song), of approximately 30 seconds to 1 minute. See the LCME Music Theatre Syllabus for further details.

Component 2: Prepared Libretto or Additional Piece with Libretto

(20 marks)

- Candidates perform a piece of prepared libretto or dramatic prose. The text should be approximately two minutes in length and may be chosen by the candidate (see guidelines on spoken libretto in the LCME Music Theatre syllabus)
- OR
- Candidates perform an additional song preceded or followed by a section of spoken libretto in character of approximately 30 seconds to one minute (see guidelines on spoken libretto in the LCME Music Theatre syllabus).

Component 3: Discussion

(20 marks)

Set questions for each grade in response to a piece chosen by the candidate. Candidates should present their responses orally before or after playing the selected piece. (see *Music Theatre Discussion Questions* on the LCME website for details of the Discussion questions).

Weighting for examination components

Performance	Prepared Libretto or Additional Piece with Libretto	Discussion
60 %	20 %	20 %

Assessment

Performances are assessed according to the same standards and criteria as for LCME's face-to-face exams. Refer to the details listed under Performance, in the section *How marks are awarded* in the relevant syllabus.

Regulation

Grades 1-8 of LCME's recorded exams are regulated in England by Ofqual, and by the corresponding authorities in Wales (Qualifications Wales) and Northern Ireland (CCEA). They have been placed on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) at Levels 1, 2 and 3.

Submission

Please see *submission guidelines* (page 4)

4. Submission Guidelines

- Music which is published with an accompaniment must be performed with that accompaniment. The accompaniment can be performed live on a piano/ keyboard, or pre-recorded, or a backing track may be used.
- Candidates must supply details of the pieces they are performing (titles and composers) verbally before each piece. Candidates are not required to submit scores of any pieces performed.
- Each piece must be recorded in a single, uninterrupted take with the title of each piece being stated before playing.
- All Technical Work should be recorded in a single, uninterrupted take with each presentation being identified orally before playing. For instance “C major scale”, “A harmonic minor scale”. Please do not submit each scale and arpeggio as a separate video file.
- Performances must be recorded using a static camera, which should be positioned in such a way as to show the performer, and their instrument, clearly.
- Always make a short test recording first to ensure the audio signal is clear and not distorting or clipping and the video image is clear.
- The recording device's microphone must be of sufficient quality to allow assessment of all aspects of the performance, including tone quality and dynamic range.
- The microphone should be positioned in such a way as to ensure good sound balance between candidate and accompanist or backing track (if applicable).
- Typically a smartphone or tablet will be of perfectly sufficient quality here in terms of audio and video recording quality. We would recommend that you set your video camera resolution to 720p as this will ensure sufficient quality. A lower resolution than this (for instance 480p) might not have sufficient clarity, whilst a higher resolution (1080p or 4K) would result in an unnecessarily large file size.
- When completing the file upload on the LCME website, candidates must declare that the performances in the video are that of the candidate named on the submission.
- When uploading a file to the website, the file must be either avi, flv, wmv, mov or mp4 format and should not exceed 150MB. The file must be labelled clearly with the candidate's name and the name of the piece or component. For example:
 - Jane Smith Andante in C major
 - Jane Smith Technical Work