



# Piano

2012-2014

## Initial-Grade 8

Graded exams and repertoire books designed with the choice and flexibility to allow for varied teaching and learning styles and to encourage students to demonstrate their individuality

## Introducing the 2012-2014 Piano syllabus and graded repertoire books

The 2012-2014 Piano syllabus is available now and includes freshly selected repertoire covering a range of styles plus newly composed exercises for the Technical Work section.

A brand new range of graded repertoire books is available, and each book (Initial-Grade 8) contains the pieces and Technical Work for the grade. A new range of CDs is also available, featuring repertoire from the books performed by the well-known composers, teachers and performers John York, Pamela Lidiard and Peter Wild. The new repertoire is available in three formats – book only, book with CD and CD only.

The new Piano syllabus from Trinity Guildhall builds upon the success of the previous syllabuses with a flexible approach to the Technical Work and Supporting Tests, catering for varied teaching and learning styles and enabling teachers to support the strengths and interests of their students, allowing them to express their individuality.



## Why a Trinity Guildhall Piano exam?

Trinity Guildhall Piano exams have been designed to develop creative, confident and skilled musicians through a structured learning framework which nurtures development and evaluates a musician's progress at every level.

### So what sets our exams apart?

- ▶ Choice and flexibility – Candidates choose three pieces from the repertoire for the exam. They may offer their own composition for one choice allowing them to express their individuality. In Grade exams candidates also have an element of choice in the Supporting Tests, and Sight Reading is not compulsory until Grade 6.
- ▶ A range of consultants and composers contributed to the syllabus, resulting in an enjoyable and diverse range of styles.
- ▶ Varied and exciting repertoire, expertly chosen, graded and edited by leading educators. New and extensive alternative lists are also available to invigorate teaching.
- ▶ Internationally recognised qualifications with UCAS points available at the higher grades.
- ▶ Personal contact with local Trinity Guildhall representative.
- ▶ Examiners who are accomplished musicians and performers, trained to provide maximum support and encouragement throughout the exam process.
- ▶ Clear and detailed mark scheme and fast turnaround of results.
- ▶ Great value graded repertoire books and CDs, and a range of Sight Reading books.

## Which qualification?

The range of piano qualifications from Trinity Guildhall allows for a variety of routes through musical learning. There are no prerequisites and candidates may enter Grades, Certificates or any combination of the two. Each level is also supported by theory exams.

### Grade exams

Trinity Guildhall Grade exams are made up of performances of three choices of repertoire, plus Technical Work and Supporting Tests. They are designed to develop confident, rounded musicians and are available for Piano and Piano Accompanying.

### Certificate exams

An alternative to Grade exams, performance-only Certificate exams are available at Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced levels. Certificate exams are structured as a mini-recital and the candidate is marked on their performance of the chosen pieces and on their programme planning. Certificate exams are available for Piano Solo, Piano Duet and Piano Six Hands.



## How is the Grade exam structured?

### Pieces

Candidates play three pieces from the repertoire listed in the syllabus and may substitute one piece for their own composition if they wish. The candidates are marked on the performance of their composition along with their explanation of how the piece was composed, and the structure and presentation of the piece.

### Technical Work

#### Scales and arpeggios

Candidates prepare the scales and arpeggios set for the grade, and play a selection as requested by the examiner. Scale requirements cover major scales and harmonic, melodic and natural minor scales. A small selection of scales is set for each grade, structured progressively through the grades. Up to and including Grade 1 candidates may choose to play either harmonic or melodic or natural minor scales. At Grades 2-5 candidates have a choice of harmonic or melodic and at Grades 6, 7 and 8 both harmonic and melodic minors must be prepared.

#### Exercises

Candidates choose three exercises, of which two are played in the exam, one chosen by the candidate and one chosen by the examiner. The exercises are designed to demonstrate: Tone, balance and voicing, Co-ordination, and Finger and wrist strength and flexibility.

### Supporting Tests

Up to and including Grade 5, candidates choose two of four Supporting Tests: Aural, Sight Reading, Musical Knowledge, and Improvisation. At Grades 6, 7 and 8, the first test must be Sight Reading but the candidate may choose between Aural and Improvisation for the second test. This element of choice makes the Trinity Guildhall exam syllabus more flexible than other examination boards, suiting different teaching and learning styles and allowing candidates to demonstrate their skills.

### Mark Scheme

Trinity Guildhall Piano exams place an emphasis on overall performance. Most candidates typically spend the highest proportion of their lesson and practice time working on the pieces they are learning, and Trinity Guildhall rewards this hard work by allocating a substantial part of the marks in an exam to the performances of these pieces. Trinity Guildhall Piano exams assess three key performance areas: notational accuracy and fluency (the candidate and the music), technical facility (the candidate and the instrument) and communication and interpretation (the candidate and the audience). The remainder of the marks are allocated to the Technical Work and Supporting Tests.

# SAMPLE PIECE

Grade 2

## Summer Swing

John DeHolt

Swing style [♩ = 92–100]  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}^{\sim 3}$

*mf*  
*poco stacc.*

1 3 2 3 2 3

5 2 3 3 2

9 *p*

14 *ff*  
*pesante*

18 *subito p* 3 *ff* 4 *p* *sfz*

SAMPLE PIECE

Grade 6

Romance op. 2

Joachim Raff  
(1822-1882)

Adagio quasi, andante [ $\text{♩} = 80-96$ ]

The musical score is for a piece in D major, 3/4 time, marked 'Adagio quasi, andante' with a tempo of 80-96 beats per minute. It consists of 16 measures. The notation is for piano, with a treble and bass staff. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The score includes various dynamics: *p* (piano), *f* (forte), *pp* (pianissimo), and *dolce* (sweetly). There are also performance instructions: *con Ped.* (with pedal) at measure 1 and *sim.* (sustained) at measure 5. The score features a variety of textures, including block chords, arpeggiated figures, and melodic lines. Measure numbers 2, 5, 9, and 13 are indicated at the start of their respective systems. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above notes. The piece concludes with a final cadence in measure 16.

*p* *con Ped.*

*p* *f* *pp* *sim.*

*p* *p* *p* *p*

*f* *p* *dolce*

SAMPLE EXERCISES

Grade 3  
Mountain Mists – co-ordination

**Dreamily**  $\text{♩} = 69-80$

This musical score is for a Grade 3 exercise titled 'Mountain Mists' with the tempo 'Dreamily' and a metronome marking of 69-80. It is in 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems. The first system has three measures. The right hand (r.h.) plays a melody of eighth notes, while the left hand (l.h.) plays a bass line of eighth notes. The first measure is marked 'mp'. The second and third measures are marked with an asterisk (\*). The second system has two measures. The first measure is marked 'rit.' and the second measure is marked with an asterisk (\*). The score includes various dynamics and articulation marks such as 'mp', 'rit.', and 'L.h.', 'r.h.'.

Grade 5  
Run and Jump – tone, balance and voicing

**Allegro giocoso**  $\text{♩} = 69-80$

This musical score is for a Grade 5 exercise titled 'Run and Jump' with the tempo 'Allegro giocoso' and a metronome marking of 69-80. It is in 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems. The first system has two measures. The right hand (r.h.) plays a melody of eighth notes, while the left hand (l.h.) plays a bass line of eighth notes. The first measure is marked 'mf'. The second measure is marked with an asterisk (\*). The second system has three measures. The first measure is marked 'cresc.' and the second measure is marked 'sf'. The third measure is marked 'sub. p'. The score includes various dynamics and articulation marks such as 'mf', 'cresc.', 'sf', 'sub. p', 'f', and 'ff'.



## Trinity Guildhall Piano publications

The new series of Trinity Guildhall piano graded publications contains everything a candidate needs to prepare for the Pieces and Technical Work sections of their exam. With a dedicated book and optional accompanying CD for each grade (Initial-Grade 8), Trinity Guildhall offers full support to candidates along their learning process.

The following Trinity Guildhall piano publications are available now from your local music shop or online at [www.trinityguildhall.co.uk/music](http://www.trinityguildhall.co.uk/music)

### Piano Examination Pieces & Exercises 2012-2014

The following are available as book only, book plus CD and CD only.

- Piano Initial
- Piano Grade 1
- Piano Grade 2
- Piano Grade 3
- Piano Grade 4
- Piano Grade 5
- Piano Grade 6
- Piano Grade 7
- Piano Grade 8



### Supporting publications

The following publications provide extra support to candidates taking Trinity Guildhall Piano exams.

- Sound at Sight 2nd series – Piano Book 1 (Initial-Grade 2)
- Sound at Sight 2nd series – Piano Book 2 (Grades 3-4)
- Sound at Sight 2nd series – Piano Book 3 (Grades 5-6)
- Sound at Sight 2nd series – Piano Book 4 (Grades 7-8)

Teaching Notes

- Piano Scales & Arpeggios (Initial-Grade 5)
- Piano Scales & Arpeggios (Grades 6-8)



## Contact Us

All syllabuses and further information about Trinity Guildhall examinations can be obtained from:  
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