

# PERFORMANCE

# EXAMS

# GUIDE FOR

# TEACHERS

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## Affordable, entry-level exams in a supportive environment

Sheffield Music Service are delighted to be launching new performance exams. These new exams provide a stepping stone into sharing musical performance in a calm, child-focused environment. Performers will receive positive feedback and constructive next steps to help improve confidence, musicality, fluency and all-round joy of music making.

What makes our exams different for young people and families?

- Affordable - just £20 per exam. Bursaries are available for Free School Meals.
- Focused on the joy of preparing for and sharing performances of pieces of music or with the addition of scales in lieu of a piece if you like.
- Calm, friendly environment with plenty of time dedicated to each exam
- You can choose which music to perform (as guided by your teacher)
- A personalised certificate
- Performance in a beautiful recording studio.
- We celebrate your strengths and offer constructive feedback.



## ***What makes our exams different for teachers?***

- Easy booking – families book direct with the music service. We handle all payments and logistics
- We will schedule all your pupils together so it is easier for you to attend / accompany / support if you like.
- You have control over what your young musicians perform – all we ask is that they prepare 4 activities for your pupil to share such as 4 pieces of music to perform, or 3 pieces and scales of your choosing. It's up to you! We offer exams at the following levels:
  - Starters!
  - Grade 1
  - Grade 2
  - Grade 3

Choose pieces from across the repertoire with your young musician – this can be from existing exam material (across all boards) or music of a similar level– we want your young musician to play something that fills them with joy and confidence – and we trust your judgement as professional music educators.



## ***How the exams work***

Each exam is 20 minutes – giving the young musician the time they need to perform confidently and to give the examiner time to write up meaningful feedback.

We ask each student to prepare 4 different things. You can work with your young musician to prepare 4 areas to perform from the following:

- 4 x pieces of music

OR

- 3 x pieces of music and 1 x set of scales / arpeggios (pre- agreed by the teacher)

We'd like an authentic performance experience. All pieces must be accompanied\*, this means:

EITHER

**-Piano accompaniment** – Teachers must organise accompanists as you do for other exams, or accompany yourself.

OR

**-Backing track** – Students should arrive with backing tracks on a device that can be played via Bluetooth, unless backing tracks are available on Spotify (we will have a Spotify account ready).

OR

**-Duet with teacher / pupil**

**\*solo instruments** - we recognise that some instruments perform on their own in these settings (piano, guitar, drums etc) – in these instances there is no requirement for an accompanist, especially for pianists – guitarists and drummers can choose as appropriate.

# How the exams work

## Scales:

If you wish your pupil to play scales as one of the activities, we ask that the **TEACHER** chooses the scales. We will ask your pupil to play all the scales you have prepared with them in order (there will be no randomisation or memory recall) you must complete the scales you will perform on the exam details form. Please list all the scales / arpeggios in the order you wish your pupil to play them in and indicate any style (staccato, slurred etc) for each scale.

**GRADING** – exams are marked out of 100, with 25 marks per piece, broken down as follows:

### Per piece

- 15 = Pass
- 19 = Merit
- 22 = Distinction

### Overall grading

- 60 = Pass
- 76 = Merit
- 88 = Distinction

Our approach to marking will be holistic and based on the quality of the musical performance and expression as and equal to technical ability. We want your pupils to share a musical performance with us.

### Results and Certificates

Results and digital certificates will be emailed to the families of students. Teachers will receive a copy of the feedback at the same time.

Hard copy certificates will be given to teachers to hand over to their pupils.