

Playing music together

In 2022, we returned to usual exam protocols and can once again enjoy the experience of making music with others.

Click on the following headings for further information and exam advice:

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- [The Collaborative Piano syllabus](#)
- [Page Turners](#)

Live Piano Accompaniment and Regulation 24

The use of a recorded accompaniment in an examination is strictly regulated under Australian Copyright Law as licensed by APRA|AMCOS. Where an official AMEB accompaniment is available (generally only for newer Grade books and the earliest grades), these official AMEB recordings are the only recordings licensed to be used in music examinations.

Recorded accompaniments helped keep music alive when Video Repertoire exams were the only option during COVID lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, and APRA|AMCOS permitted an exemption for their use during this timeframe. They remain a convenient and useful rehearsal tool, however they were not intended to play an ongoing role in the exam process.

Ensemble work is one of the most rewarding aspects of music-making and often leads to some of our fondest musical memories. Working with others teaches music students to listen to what is going on around them, honing their musical communication and leadership skills. It helps young musicians develop important ensemble skills and demonstrate their mastery of volume balance, synchronicity and musical expression.

Working with a piano accompanist helps singers and instrumentalists achieve coherence and stylistic integrity. The synergy empowers music students to craft each performance piece, making individual choices about tempo and dynamic variations to create their own unique interpretation.

The [AMEB Music Exam Regulations](#) in the 2022 and 2023 Manual of Syllabuses provide more information about mark penalties that examiners may enact when works that have a piano accompaniment part are not presented with live piano accompaniment. **Regulation 24** is applicable in both face-to-face and video exams.

Please be mindful of the important difference between **Extra List** pieces (relevant only for Comprehensive exams) and **Own Choice** pieces (relevant for Repertoire exams).

The Extra List is a small consideration in a Comprehensive face-to-face exam, therefore accompaniment is optional. **This is not the case for Own Choice pieces.**

In a Repertoire exam, List pieces and Own Choice pieces carry equal weight toward the overall exam result, thus all pieces that have a printed accompaniment part (including Own Choice pieces) must be presented with live piano accompaniment.

You can find more information about accompaniment, and search for Accompanists Guild of NSW members to find a suitable and experienced accompanist [here](#).

The Collaborative Piano syllabus

Piano candidates in Grades 5 - 8 can again consider the Collaborative Piano syllabus as their next exam goal. Although the core of the exam still involves solo piano work, Grade 5 and 6 candidates can opt to include one collaborative work in their program and Grade 7 and 8 candidates can include two collaborative works. Please see the 2023 Piano Level 2 syllabus for further information about this exciting exam format where pianists can hone and demonstrate their ensemble skills.

Page Turners

Exam candidates playing longer pieces are permitted to tape subsequent pages 'accordion-style' to the first page/s of the original music to avoid page turns.

For more information about Australian copyright laws and if you have questions about acceptable sheet music in exams, please contact:

- Music Rights Australia
Web: www.musicrights.com.au Email: info@musicrights.com.au

- APRA | AMCOS
Web: www.apraamcos.com.au Email: apra@apra.com.au

If preferred, candidates can bring a person into the exam room to assist with exam items that require page turns. Page turners should wait in the exam waiting area until the candidate calls them into the exam room. Page turners should enter and exit the exam room with minimal disruption to the exam process.