

## Video Repertoire exam preparation

We thank the many schools, teachers and candidates who have pivoted to the option of a Video Repertoire exam in 2020 and again in 2021. To our delight, we have found that a great number of candidates are enjoying this new exam option.

However, some teachers have had a few problems understanding this slightly different exam format. Please see below information that will help you understand what this exam is all about, how to present for it and of course, how to receive the best possible result.

### Selecting a Repertoire exam program

Every Video Repertoire exam requires a program of either **four** or **five** performance pieces. You can find the preparation details for a Repertoire exam format for your syllabus and subject on the final page of the syllabus for your instrument. For a summary, have a look at the [Video Exam Requirements](#) on our website.

- When putting the program together, be sure to **meet or exceed** the minimum number of **List pieces** required. You are always welcome to use additional List pieces as the Own Choice items.
- **Own Choice items** are quite different to the concept of an Extra List piece.
- **Own Choice works** must be of a comparable educational standard and duration to the listed pieces. *For example, a canon, a vocalise or a technical exercise would not be suitable.* It is better to select an additional list work from the syllabus list/s if you are unsure about a non-syllabus option.
- **Performance pieces are the sole focus in a Repertoire exam.** Since there are no other exam sections being examined, each performance item contributes more significantly to the overall exam result than a piece would in a Comprehensive exam where it is only one item in one section of the assessment.
- Unlike Extra List pieces in a Comprehensive exam, **Own Choice items** in a Repertoire program stand equally alongside the compulsory List pieces. This underlines why it is so important to be confident that you have chosen a suitable piece.
- In instrumental exams, **Own Choice items** must be performed with piano accompaniment if that work has a printed accompaniment part. This is the same as the expectation for List pieces.
- In instrumental exams, **List D orchestral or chamber music excerpts** work differently in a Video Repertoire exam to how they are presented in a face-to-face Repertoire or Comprehensive exam. Where List D is presented in a Video exam, the candidate performs two excerpts *of their own choice*, which together make up that List or Own Choice item.

### Perfecting your program

#### Record your work in progress for evaluation

The final submitted recording must have the verbal introduction through to the last note of the last piece performed in **one continuous take**. However at first, students might be encouraged to record one piece at a time on their iPhone or android phone to test the process. This will allow them to get more and more comfortable being filmed and seeing their own performance from a third-person perspective.

- Tweaking may be required if the teacher finds that the volume level isn't sufficient, or the view of the candidate does not compare to the [examples given on the AMEB \(NSW\) website](#) for your instrument. If the teacher is not the person doing the filming, they should be communicating with the person filming their student with notes on how to improve the angle, sound quality etc for the final recording. Keep in mind that the goal is to simulate an exam room view and volume as much as possible.
- Ask the student to watch and compare their own performance with other performances of the piece that they might be able to watch and listen to on *YouTube*.
- Teachers might choose to go over a recording of one piece per lesson and talk through where you think improvements are needed. It is useful to keep the dot point syllabus objectives for the grade being attempted nearby to check that the student is meeting those objectives in their performance of each piece.
- As each piece is weighted equally, make sure you give extra attention to the piece that you both feel has the most room for improvement in the program as you approach recording day.

### Time to record

Once all four or five items are being played fluently and relatively error-free, now is a good point in the process to read about [enrolling](#) your candidate for their Video Repertoire exam. Remember that you must submit the video exam **no later than 21 days** after the day the candidate has been enrolled.

Make sure the student has practised the verbal introduction as well as their pieces. It is important that they clearly state:

1. their name
2. the full date of the recording: date, month and **year**
3. the grade and syllabus for the enrolment.

The teacher and the parent (if this is the person recording the exam) should go through the website information to correctly [record](#), [upload](#) and then [submit](#) the Video exam for timetabling and marking.

We wish your students every success for their Video Repertoire exam performances this year!