



NATIONAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC, LONDON

DIPLOMA EXAMINATIONS IN COMPOSITION

General Regulations

1. Diplomas in Composition are awarded at DipNCM, Associate, Licentiate and Fellowship levels.
2. Entry may be made at any time but a candidate for Associate must have previously passed the NCM Theory of Music for Grade 6 or above (or other examination of equal difficulty). A candidate for Licentiate must have previously passed the NCM Theory of Music examination for Grade 8 or AMusNCM (or other examination of equal difficulty). A candidate for Fellowship must have previously passed the NCM Licentiate in Composition (or other examination of equal difficulty). Copies of the relevant certificates/diplomas should be forwarded to the General Secretary at the time of entry.
3. At each level, a candidate may submit a group of compositions or one composition. The total length of performance at each level must be of the minimum time stipulated:

DipNCM – Ten minutes
Associate – Fifteen minutes
Licentiate – Twenty minutes
Fellowship – Twenty-five minutes
4. Although credit will be given for originality, all compositions should be written in conventional staff notation and should show understanding of form and structure.
5. EITHER two paper copies of each composition must be forwarded to the College, OR one copy may be submitted electronically as PDF files. Scores may be handwritten or computer generated by a high standard programme such as “Sibelius”. In both cases a professional standard of legibility and layout is expected and this will be considered in the assessment process. A CD recording of the composition(s) may be sent OR may be submitted as either MIDI or MP3 files. The recordings may be computer renderings of the scores, or recordings of live performances.

6. An entry must be accompanied by a signed statement certifying that this is the candidate's own unaided work.
7. No marks will be awarded. The Examiner's Report will take the form of a critique and the result will be notified as successful or unsuccessful.

During actual examination, our Examiners are studying the following points for Vocal and Instrumental Composition:

- *Discipline in compositional writing in all schools, both traditional and avant garde.*
- *A coherent formal structure.*
- *An in-depth knowledge of the capabilities of the human voice, orchestral instruments, pianoforte, organ.*
- *Choral and Ensemble (chamber music and orchestral).*
- *Melodic variety.*
- *Originality, inventiveness and general interest.*
- *A solid harmonic foundation.*
- *Legible, technically correct and properly presented scores*