

## **RIAM EXAMS INFORMATION**

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## OPTIONS FOR SUMMER & CANCELLED SPRING 2020 EXAMS

### Option 1. Live Exams - from 21st September 2020

Choose to defer your exam to our next live sittings which will take place between 21<sup>st</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> December (subject to Government Direction).

To choose this option please click on [TRANSFER Exam to the Autumn](#)

### Option 2. Online Video Exam Submission – June 1<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Choose to submit a video recording of you/your student performing the chosen repertoire and other selected skills.

For more information on this process, please click [here](#)

To choose this option please click on [REGISTER for an Online Exam Submission](#)

### Refunds

As COVID 19 has put families under financial pressure, we want to offer the opportunity for a full refund if this is the right course for you. Please fill in this [form](#) to avail of the refund option

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## FLEXIBLE CHOICE- CHOOSING SEVERAL OPTIONS

Please note, for **applicants with several candidates on their application you can choose several of the options above**. In order to do so please fill out each form you require, ensuring that the details are correct

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## TRANSFERS TO THE NEXT SESSION

Your exam will be transferred to our next live sittings which will take place between **21<sup>st</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> December (subject to Government Direction)**.

Whilst every effort will be made to schedule the exams at a suitable time, and in an appropriate location, the Exams Office **cannot accept specific requests** due to the impact of Government Directives upon public centres (when, and for how long they are available)

To choose this option please click on [TRANSFER Exam to the Autumn](#)

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## ONLINE EXAM VIDEO SUBMISSIONS

Students who are continuing to study towards **Grade or Recital Exams** can choose to submit a video recording performing the chosen repertoire and other selected skills.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR MUSIC STUDENTS

### Part 1 - Assessment of Pre-recorded Pieces, Scales and Arpeggios

Record a video in **ONE TAKE**, including the following

- Three examination pieces from the syllabus you have been working on
- Scales of your own choosing for Grade Exams (for info please click [here](#))
- Arpeggios of your own choosing for Grade Exams (for info please click [here](#))
- Recital Exam candidates must upload their programme notes

### Part 2 – Sight-reading, Theory, and Aural Assessment

Aural, theory, and sight-reading marks (Viva voce for Senior Certificate also) provided by your teacher, based on the work they have with you during the year

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## REQUIREMENTS FOR SPEECH AND DRAMA STUDENTS

### Part 1 - Assessment of Pre-recorded Pieces

Record a video in **ONE TAKE**, including the following

- Examination pieces from the syllabus you have been working on (which may include, Drama, Poetry, Prose, Mime)
- Choice of sight-reading passage (sight-reading information will be provided to those who have registered, closer to the exam submission period)

### Part 2 – Theory, Improvisation and Conversation

Theory, Improvisation, Conversation, and Literary Background should be provided by your teacher, based on the work they have with you during the year.

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## HOW TO SUBMIT A VIDEO

We have created a short 'how to' video guide to help you create your video submission. To watch please click [here](#)

For tips on recording please click [here](#)

Please ensure you follow this checklist:

- Under 18's must have a guardian present (see video to demonstrate how)
- Record from the appropriate distance/height (1.5 - 2 meters away)
- Performers must introduce themselves, slowly and clearly
- Performers must introduce **ALL** the items performed
- Recordings should be completed in one take, **NO EDITING** is permitted

In order to complete a video submission you **MUST** register in advance, by filling out your details after click on [REGISTER for an Online Exam Submission](#)

### INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

- Fill in the correct details from your original application, which you or your child's teacher may have submitted originally.
- You will receive an email closer to the submission window (1<sup>st</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June), with more details for submitting online. You should forward to any parents/students (over 18) that you have registered for online submission.
- Please contact your child's teacher for their recommendations in marking where required. More information for teachers on this process is included below. **Submissions cannot be completed without all required information.**
- You will be directed to a page to submit your video exam. Results will be made available (online applicants) and forwarded to Applicants (results may be subject to delay in processing due to Government restrictions)

### INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

- Fill in the correct details from your original application
- You will receive an email closer to the submission window (1<sup>st</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June), with more details for submitting online.
- Please indicate your recommendation for Exam marks where required, and forward the recommendations to the person uploading the video submission. **Submissions cannot be completed without all required information.** Depending upon the level/type of exam, these may include:
  - Theory
  - Sight-reading
  - Aural, Viva Voce
  - Conversation/Literary Background
  - Improvisation
- Parents/students (over 18) can submit videos themselves. Results will still be made available (online applicants) and forwarded to Applicants (results may be subject to delay in processing due to Government restrictions)

The recordings and marks from your teacher are submitted via the online exam system. A full guide to the online exam is available [here](#)

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## ACCOMPANIMENT

While orchestral instrumental players and singers are usually required to have an accompanist on the day of their exam, given the circumstances, we will accept the following options for online video exam submissions:

- an unaccompanied exam
- a piano accompanist
- a backing track
- a mix of all

These are extraordinary circumstances and we understand the impact of current restrictions. Please do not be concerned if you do not have an accompanist or backing track. Our experienced Examiners are aware of the challenging environment and will focus only on your performance.

In the interest of helping your student(s) and in the spirit of wishing the best for all Exams candidates, we recommend the following if you are considering the use of a backing track:

- a pre-recorded accompaniment from a teacher or established accompaniment
- backing tracks available to download online
- Streaming sites that may have tracks available, such as YouTube, iTunes, or Spotify

When using a backing track please ensure:

- You have tested the balance by recording it playing along and listening back
- You are playing it from a different device to that used for recording
- You are using it to help the overall performance- under the circumstances, there are no extra marks for performing with accompaniment or backing track, but some performers may find it useful for themselves to have

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## TEACHER RECOMMENDATION GUIDANCE

Music and Speech and Drama Grades both include criteria that we request the teacher recommends the mark, based upon the work you have completed with them to date. Your teacher knows you best, and we will be happy to accept their professional judgement in this very special situation.

Teachers should consider the students overall ability in each mark section recommendation, based upon their knowledge of the students overall skills. You may wish to reflect upon previous marks in these sections (if applicable) for guidance.

Teachers should base their recommendations on what they believe a student would achieve in normal live exam circumstances.

The recordings and marks from your teacher are submitted via the online exam system. If you are a teacher completing the video submission you can input the information directly. If you are a parent you must request the recommended marks from the teacher before submitting the video. A full guide to the online exam is available [here](#)

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## REFUNDS

As COVID 19 has put families under financial pressure, we want to offer the opportunity for a full refund if this is the right course for you. Please fill in this [form](#) to avail of the refund option

Please note it may take 10-14 working days to process refunds.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

- 3rd May** - Closing date for option choice (Transfer/Video Exam/Refund)
- 1st - 14th June** - Uploading of Video Exam Submissions
- 19th Sept.** - RIAM Summer Theory Exams
- 21st Sept. - 5th Dec.** - Spring/Summer Exam transfers (subject to Government direction)
- 1st Oct.** - Closing date for postal entries, Winter session, 2020
- 6th Oct.** - Closing date for online entries, Winter session, 2020
- 1st Nov. – 5th Dec.** - Winter Exam session, 2020
- 14th Nov.** - RIAM Winter Theory Exams

Please note, Theory Exams and all remaining live exams for 2020 are subject to Government policy on social distancing.

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## FAQ

### ***Can any type of RIAM Exam be submitted online?***

Unfortunately not- Grade Exams and Recitals, and anything that can be performed within the terms of Government directions for social distancing can. Theory Exams, duets (unless performers of the same household), duologues, group exams and Cara will all have to transfer to the live Exams later this year.

### ***My Spring 2020 Session Exam was cancelled, do these options apply to me?***

Yes. Some exams towards the end of the Spring 2020 session were also cancelled due to COVID-19.

### ***I applied to take a Music Theory exam in Summer 2020. When will this take place?***

All Music Theory Exams have been rescheduled to the 19th September, and a member of the RIAM Exams team will be in touch with you closer

### ***Can I still play pieces from the 2019 syllabus?***

Candidates who were due to take their exam in the Spring 2020 session using 2019 syllabus pieces (as per our normal grace period) will be permitted to perform these pieces, whether in a live exam deferred to Autumn 2020, or in an online video exam submission this June.

However, any candidates who were due to sit their exam in the Summer 2020 session must play from the 2020 syllabus.

### ***Do I submit a video or audio file?***

Online exam submission must be a video file in one continuous take. Submissions containing only audio files will not be accepted.

### ***Can I play a digital piano or a keyboard in my video submission?***

Digital pianos can be used, but keyboard performances are not permitted. The electronic piano must be capable of producing a satisfactory piano tone and be fully equipped with a touch sensitive keyboard with 88 full-size weighted keys and a sustaining pedal.

### ***I don't have accompaniment—can I still submit a recording?***

While orchestral instrumental players and singers are usually required to have an accompanist on the day of their exam, given the circumstances, we will accept the following options for online video exam submissions:

- an unaccompanied exam
- a piano accompanist
- a backing track
- a mix of all

These are extraordinary circumstances and we understand the impact of current restrictions. Please do not be concerned if you do not have an accompanist or backing track. Our experienced examiners are aware of the challenging environment and will focus only on your performance.

***Do we play rests as written in the score if we are playing unaccompanied?***

Yes, if there is a small number of resting bars, please play these rests as written.

***Can I use pre-recorded accompaniment or backing tracks?***

Yes. Given the extraordinary circumstances, we understand that you may have to use recorded tracks to rehearse and perform.

***Are there any advantages to using a backing track or pre-recorded accompaniment?***

No, you gain absolutely no advantage if you have an accompaniment, and Examiners will be made aware of this.

***Do we provide copies of scores to the examiners?***

No, in this instance the Examiners will be happy to assess based upon their knowledge of the repertoire for RIAM Exams

***Do we have to send our video submission all in one take?***

Yes, make sure you record your pieces and any other required criteria in one complete take.

***How do we dress for a video Exam?***

Please dress appropriately, as you would if you were visiting an Exam centre in person.

***Can I complete my Grade submission without my teacher's recommendation?***

If you are sitting a Grade Exam, unfortunately no. You will be asked for your teachers marks when uploading your video.

***Will I be penalised for a home piano that may be out of tune?***

No. Under the circumstances we understand that pianos may not have been tuned recently.

***Will I be penalised for not using costumes or props in Musical Theatre & Popular Singing?***

No. As per the syllabus requirements, you do not have to use props or costumes. Only use them if you feel they will enhance your performance, but there are no extra marks for including them.

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## **FURTHER QUERIES**

If you require further assistance, or require information that has not been covered in this document, please contact us at [examsoffice@riam.ie](mailto:examsoffice@riam.ie)

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## SCALES/ARPEGGIOS FOR INSTRUMENTAL RECORDED EXAMS

The following offers a guideline as to what will be expected in your recorded exam performance. The requirements for different instruments vary greatly and candidates should adapt to the syllabus requirements for your specific instrument / grade as necessary.

**Bowed String Instruments:** candidates should demonstrate a mixture of slurred and separate bowing (in line with the syllabus requirements for your specific grade).

**Woodwind and Brass Instruments:** candidates should demonstrate a mixture of tongued and slurred articulation (in line with the syllabus requirements for your specific grade).

**PLEASE NOTE: for every Grade, Candidates should present as per syllabus requirements, where applicable**

**ELEMENTARY (Piano only)** (as per syllabus)

*Scales:* C and G Major.

*Contrary Motion:* C Major

**PRELIMINARY AND PRIMARY:** (as per syllabus)

*Scales:* 4 scales required, including 1 Contrary motion

*Arpeggios:* 2 arpeggios required

**GRADES 1–2:** (as per syllabus)

*Scales:* 5 scales required, including Major and Minor.

*Contrary motion:* scales and Melodic Exercises should also be included.

*Arpeggios:* 4 arpeggios required (Grade II must include Major and Minor)

**GRADES 3–5:** (as per syllabus)

*Scales:* 7 scales required, including Major and Minor.

Chromatic, Contrary motion scales and Melodic Exercises should also be included.

*Arpeggios:* 4 arpeggios required, including Major and Minor. 1<sup>st</sup> Inversions, Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> and Diminished 7<sup>th</sup> arpeggios should be included.

**GRADES 6–7:** (as per syllabus)

*Scales:* 8 scales required, including Major and Minor (harmonic and melodic where applicable). Chromatic, Contrary motion, Whole Tone, Melodic Exercises, Double Stops, Wrist Staccato and Double Octaves should also be included – where applicable).

*Arpeggios:* Up to 6 required, including Major and Minor. Where applicable these should include 1<sup>st</sup> Inversions, Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> and Diminished 7<sup>th</sup> arpeggios.

**GRADE 8 AND SENIOR CERTIFICATE:** (as per syllabus)

*Scales:* 10 scales required, including Major and Minor (harmonic and melodic where applicable). Chromatic, Contrary motion, Scales a Third apart, Scales a Sixth apart, Double Thirds, Double Octaves, Double Stops and Whole Tone scales should be included as per syllabus requirements.

*Arpeggios:* Up to 8 required, including Major and Minor. Root Position, 1<sup>st</sup> Inversion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Inversion, Dominant 7<sup>th</sup>, Diminished 7<sup>th</sup> arpeggios should be included.

**Scales, Arpeggios And Exercises For Singing And Music Theatre Recorded Exams**

Due to the limited number of scales prescribed in the syllabus all scales and exercises for each grade will be expected.

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## PIANO / KEYBOARD ENQUIRIES

For Piano Grade and Recital exams we recommend the use of a conventional, acoustic piano, if one is available at home.

In the absence of a conventional piano, electronic pianos are permitted under these circumstances, once they have the following:

- Produces a piano sound
- Fully equipped with a touch sensitive keyboard, capable of producing dynamics
- 88 full-size weighted keys and a sustaining pedal

If the instrument at home is not fully fitted with these capabilities, we recommend that students request a Transfer to the live exam session later this year, in order to give them the best opportunity to demonstrate their ability on an appropriate instrument.

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## GROUP & DIPRIAM EXAMS

Please note that, subject to Government direction:

**Group Exams** including duets, duologues, choral singing, group and Cara Awards are transferred to the session beginning the 21<sup>st</sup> September until the 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**DipRIAM Diploma Exams** will be transferred to the session beginning the 21<sup>st</sup> September until the 5<sup>th</sup> December.

If you wish to request a refund for these types of Exams please fill in this [form](#).

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## MUSICAL THEATRE & POPULAR SINGING

Candidates submitting an Online Exam Video Submission for Musical Theatre & Popular Singing should note the following information is still applicable, as per the syllabus requirements:

- A spoken introduction for each of the three songs is required, where 'General Knowledge' can be displayed.
- Either a scripted or improvised monologue to set-up the song may also be performed, but is not required.
- The use of costumes is NOT obligatory. The candidate may use a costume for one of the songs, if desired. Props may be used to enhance the performance, but should not become a distraction.
- The focus of the exam is communicating the story through the vocal performance first – acting through singing, extra marks ARE NOT awarded for the use of props and costumes

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