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## **Guidance for Accompanied Instrumentalists**

Working with accompanists is an integral skill and part of any instrumentalist's life. The main goal of working with a live pianist is being able to listen and work collaboratively whilst also playing soloistically, and learning how to lead an ensemble. Some candidates may feel quite nervous about this new experience but there is nothing to fear at all! My role as an accompanist is to reassure and support the candidate and provide the musical context for some/all of their pieces to help them feel in control and assisted throughout their exam process. Becoming confident in choices of tempi, dynamics and articulation, and musical entrances is all part of this developing experience, and I will support with these elements as needed. Furthermore, an accompanist is there to help cue and rehearse the pieces so that all entrances and finishes are secure and confident. In the early days of exam accompaniment, usually grades 1-5, I will help to demonstrate how this can be done to a high professional standard.

As a candidate grows musically and gains further experience as an accompanied and unaccompanied soloist, the onus falls further onto the soloist to show that they are commanding the ensemble. This means, for example, should the accompanist and instrumentalist start together, that the latter must cue the former, not wait for the pianist to start playing! It is the accompanist's role to be hyperattentive to the soloist's musical choices, and follow them wherever they go, either intentionally or otherwise. This is the main advantage of a live accompanist; your musicality can shine through without having to mould around a pre-existing recording, but also if any errors occur the accompanist can follow and support.

### **Exam candidates/parents/guardians are responsible for the following:**

- **All sheet music, including the accompaniment part.** Photocopies are fine for rehearsals but may not be acceptable for live or recorded exams). Accompaniment parts must be given in advance to the accompanist but will be the responsibility of the candidate to bring with them unless otherwise agreed in rehearsal. If a candidate attends an exam and forgets their accompaniment part (and it was not left with the accompanist) some examiners may refuse to allow the exam to take place on a case-by-case basis. The fee for the exam will still be due in either case.
- **Ensuring the correct date, time, and venue are supplied to the accompanist.** The accompanist is not liable for any errors or omissions in these details.
- **Examination paperwork.** This may be a booking form, such as for Trinity, or ID for exams Grade 6 onwards.

- **Booking rehearsals in good time.** This usually means once you have decided to enter for the exam to start enquiring about accompanist availability. In the approaching week or two before the exam itself, it is unlikely that there will be a great deal of rehearsal availability if not booked in advance.
- **Booking sufficient rehearsal time.** It is usually advised to have at least two practices *minimum*, one to ensure timings and details are correct, and for the instrumentalist to be at ease with a new musician, and a second to do a full run-through of everything in exam conditions. Some candidates may require more time which with sufficient notice can be booked, but the accompanist holds no liability for an exam result which is caused by insufficient rehearsal time.
- **Ensuring that all relevant examination regulations are adhered to by the candidate.** This information can be found by clicking on the links below:

[Trinity](#)

[ABRSM](#)

[LCM](#)

[MTB](#)

[RSL](#)

- **Music stands** (these are provided at exam venues but it is good practice to always have a spare) and **general equipment spares** (reeds/oil/cork or barrel grease/slings/ground spikes) where applicable.
  - **Digital Equipment (see below: Recorded Examinations)**

#### **For In-Person Examinations:**

On the day of the exam, the accompanist will arrive at the venue at least 30 minutes prior to the exam. On some exam days Myles may be accompanying multiple exams back to back, which will mean that I will be in the examination hall and will head to the warm-up room immediately upon finishing the previous exam. This will always give us the allotted amount of warmup time (usually 15 minutes). The accompanist will ensure that even if the exams are running early that the candidate has their full preparation time and will only go into the examination once ready and settled.

#### **For Recorded Examinations:**

Once a suitable venue is agreed and booked, the candidate is responsible for either arranging their own recording equipment or, if agreed with the accompanist, using their equipment. The candidate/candidate's teacher will then be responsible for submitting this recording for examination.

(Please note: If the candidate uses the accompanist's equipment, the video will be transferred within one week and kept on file for a maximum of 2 months before it will be deleted from local data storage as per data retention policy. Please ensure you have the file downloaded before this period has elapsed. The accompanist holds no responsibility beyond this point for lost recordings and if after two months the candidate has a) not submitted their recording for examination and b) has lost their recording, then the exam will have to be re-recorded at standard rates.)