

Acoustic Guitar Concert Performance Diplomas

Exam Information Booklet
Valid from 2015 until further notice



“RGT offers quality exams you can have confidence in.”

About Registry of Guitar Tutors (RGT)

RGT was established in the UK in 1992 and is now the world's premier organisation of guitar educators. To find a registered guitar tutor in your area visit www.RGT.org

RGT exams are operated in partnership with London College of Music Exams, which was founded in 1887 and is one of the world's most respected music examination boards.

RGT organises guitar exams, from beginner to professional Diploma level, in numerous countries around the world.

RGT qualifications are awarded and certificated by the University of West London and, from Grade One onwards, are regulated by Ofqual.

RGT offers exams in rock guitar, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, jazz guitar, ukulele and popular music theory.

From Grade Six to Grade Eight, RGT exams attract UCAS points which can be used towards university entrance.

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www.RGT.org

For more information about RGT@LCM visit www.RGT.org

RGT Acoustic Guitar Concert Performance Diplomas

This Information Booklet has been designed to provide candidates with the necessary information to enable them to prepare and undertake any of the RGT Acoustic Guitar Concert Performance Diplomas. In addition, candidates should consult the Acoustic Guitar Concert Performance Diploma Syllabus, which describes how the examinations are assessed and includes the official examination regulations. The syllabus is available as a free download from the RGT website: www.RGT.org. (Candidates without internet access should send a large S.A.E. to the RGT office requesting a print-out of the syllabus).

There are four levels of Concert Performance Diploma available:

- Diploma of The London College of Music – DipLCM
- Associate of The London College of Music – ALCM
- Licentiate of The London College of Music – LLCM
- Fellowship of The London College of Music – FLCM

Standards Expected For Each Diploma

DipLCM in Concert Performance. Candidates who enter for this examination will be expected to demonstrate a standard of performance beyond that of Grade 8. Security of technique, and the ability to communicate an emerging and mature sense of musical personality, will be expected.

ALCM in Concert Performance. Compared to DipLCM this diploma demands a higher standard of performance and musicianship. Security of technique, and the ability to communicate a degree of flair and imagination in performance, will be expected.

LLCM in Concert Performance. This diploma demands a fully professional standard of performance and musicianship. An extremely secure and versatile technique, together with the ability to communicate a tangible sense of interpretative awareness and convincing musicianship, will be expected.

FLCM in Concert Performance. This diploma, the highest LCM Exams Certificate awarded by the University of West London, demands a truly exceptional demonstration of performing ability of the very highest standard. In order to pass, the candidate must present a performance of a standard which one might expect to hear at a major concert venue, demonstrating a clear maturity of personality and interpretation.

Pre-requisite Qualifications

DipLCM in Concert Performance: Candidates can enter directly for this diploma; there are no pre-requisite qualifications.

ALCM in Concert Performance: Candidates can enter directly for this diploma; there are no pre-requisite qualifications.

LLCM in Concert Performance: Candidates should normally have already passed the ALCM in Concert Performance in acoustic guitar or the ALCM(TD) in Teaching in acoustic guitar or a similar equivalent level qualification. However, candidates who feel they have relevant professional experience, and have attained the appropriate standard of performance, may apply to enter directly for the LLCM without holding previous qualifications. Such a candidate would be expected to have secured local or regional recognition as a professional performer. Such an application must be made in advance of entry in writing to the RGT Examinations Office, outlining the rationale for entering directly at this level, accompanied by evidence in the form of press cuttings, reviews, links to YouTube footage etc., and supported by at least two references from professional musicians, who must not be the candidate's teacher. An administrative fee will be charged for this process (see current fee list).

FLCM in Concert Performance: LLCM in Concert Performance in acoustic guitar or LLCM(TD) in Teaching in acoustic guitar or a similar equivalent level qualification must normally be passed before entering this examination. However, candidates who feel they have relevant professional experience, and have attained the appropriate standard of performance, may apply to enter directly for the FLCM without holding previous qualifications. Such a candidate would be expected to have secured national or international recognition as a professional performer. Such an application must be made in advance of entry in writing to the RGT Examinations Office, outlining the rationale for entering directly at this level, accompanied by evidence in the form of press cuttings, reviews, concert programmes, CD recordings, links to YouTube footage etc., and supported by at least two references from professional musicians, who must not be the candidate's teacher. An administrative fee will be charged for this process (see current fee list).

Description of Examination Components

DipLCM in Concert Performance

Component 1 - Performance:

Candidates should compile and perform a varied programme of music of between 20 and 25 minutes duration. Further information is provided below under the heading 'Additional Information for Component 1'

Component 2 - Programme Notes

Further information is provided below under the heading 'Additional Information for Component 2'

ALCM in Concert Performance

Component 1 - Performance:

Candidates should compile and perform a varied programme of music of between 25 and 30 minutes duration. Further information is provided below under the heading 'Additional Information for Component 1'

Component 2 - Programme Notes

Further information is provided below under the heading 'Additional Information for Component 2'

LLCM in Concert Performance

Component 1 - Performance:

Candidates should compile and perform a varied programme of music of between 30 and 35 minutes duration. Further information is provided below under the heading 'Additional Information for Component 1'

Component 2 - Programme Notes

Further information is provided below under the heading 'Additional Information for Component 2'

FLCM in Concert Performance

Component 1 - Performance:

Candidates should compile and perform a varied programme of music of between 35 and 40 minutes duration. Further information is provided below under the heading 'Additional Information for Component 1'

Component 2 - Programme Notes

Further information is provided below under the heading 'Additional Information for Component 2'

Additional Information for Component 1 – Performance (for all Concert Performance Diploma levels)

The programme should consist of a free choice of music chosen by the candidate that demonstrates sufficient technical and musical complexity as appropriate for the level of diploma being undertaken. Whilst the programme is a “free choice” and candidates are expected to research and source appropriate music themselves that match their own musical interests and playing styles, a list of example pieces to give a broad indication of the approximate technical level expected for each level of diploma is available on the RGT website www.RGT.org.

The programme can include (or consist of) self-composed pieces, existing pieces that have been arranged and interpreted by the candidate, and/or performances of pieces/arrangements by other people. For all the diplomas, although entirely optional, the performance of self-composed pieces is welcomed, although marks will not be awarded for the composition itself; rather it is the demonstration of technical flair, musicality and creativity in performing the pieces that will be assessed.

The programme can be performed entirely as solo unaccompanied pieces. Alternatively, some of the performances may include vocals, by the candidate or a separate vocalist, provided that the guitar parts are prominent and sufficient enough to fully display the candidate’s playing. The use of a loop pedal or similar device is also perfectly acceptable for these diplomas. The use of recorded backing tracks (which, if used, must be supplied by the candidate), or live accompaniment with one or more musician (engaged by the candidate) for part of the performance is also acceptable. However, the majority of the programme should consist of solo guitar pieces that are not accompanied by either live or recorded music.

An ‘acoustic’ guitar (with either steel or nylon strings) must be used throughout for all of these diplomas. Acoustic guitars with pick-ups can be used, but these diplomas are not designed for electric or semi-acoustic guitars. Candidates may, if they wish, use alternative acoustic guitars such as a slide/dobro guitar or 12- string acoustic guitar for all or part of the performance. The use of alternative tunings for some or all of the pieces is perfectly acceptable, and particularly at higher diploma levels is encouraged (although not compulsory) to help demonstrate versatility. Candidates are expected to be able to undertake any re-tuning promptly and without any assistance from the examiner.

Additional Information for Component 2 – Programme Notes (for all Concert Performance Diploma levels)

Candidates should prepare typewritten programme notes relating to the music performed. Two copies of the programme notes should be brought to the examination room and handed to the examiner. Whilst the programme notes should be clearly presented, the assessment of this written submission will be on the content rather than the presentation. The style and approach should be intelligent and informed, and may assume an educated readership, but need not be overly academic. The programme notes should outline the following aspects of the performance:

- Titles and composer/s of the pieces performed, as well as some background information on the composers/original artists, including biographical information, as well as brief information listing some other pieces by the same composer/original artist and an overview summary of their musical style.
- For any pieces that were originally performed by another artist, candidates should identify any aspects where the performed rendition differs significantly from the original version.
- The reasons for selecting the pieces that were performed and how the pieces influenced the overall structure and flow of the programme.
- An analysis of the technical and musical challenges of the pieces and how these were overcome.
- Information on any alternative tunings and/or effects that were adopted as part of the performance.

The general level of depth and detail, and degree of understanding demonstrated of musical style and analysis, is expected to increase as the diploma levels progress. The length of the programme notes required is as follows:

- DipLCM:** 600 to 800 words.
- ALCM:** 800 to 1,000 words.
- LLCM:** 1,000 to 1,200 words.
- FLCM:** 1,200 to 1,500 words.

Marking Scheme (for all Concert Performance Diploma levels)

The table below shows the maximum marks that may be awarded for each component of each diploma. The total pass mark is 75.

	Performance	Programme Notes
DipLCM:	90	10
ALCM:	90	10
LLCM:	90	10

FLCM: Marks are not awarded in FLCM examinations, instead both components must be 'approved' in order to be awarded an FLCM Diploma.

Selecting Pieces For Each Diploma Level

Each of these Diplomas allows a free choice of music to perform, and candidates are expected to research appropriate music to demonstrate their acoustic guitar playing skills, as well as a range and breadth of musicianship that is relevant for the level of Diploma. When compiling the programme of pieces to perform candidates should ensure that a variety of acoustic guitar playing skills and techniques are being demonstrated. Candidates should select pieces with care to ensure they provide a balanced and varied programme to demonstrate musically effective technical and expressive contrasts.

A list of sample pieces for each Diploma level can be viewed on the RGT website www.RGT.org

This website list is provided to give a broad guide indicating the approximate standard expected for each Diploma level. There is no obligation to choose any of these pieces; any alternative pieces presenting a similar level of technical and musical challenge will be acceptable. Candidates are positively encouraged to source alternative pieces to those listed on the website in order to compile a programme that best suits their individual musical tastes and playing styles.

It is the responsibility of candidates to ensure that any pieces are of a technical standard that is appropriate for the Diploma level being undertaken. Candidates at this level are expected to take their own responsibility for this assessment by comparing their chosen pieces to those in the examples listed for each diploma level. Consequently, the candidate's list of selected repertoire may not be submitted in advance for approval as an integral part of the diploma preparation is the research, knowledge and ability to select and compile a suitable programme for the chosen concert diploma level, plus it should be borne in mind that the standard of performance of any pieces can only be reliably assessed by examiners during the examination itself, not in advance.

Frequently Asked Questions

How Do I Enter?

Download a Concert Performance Diploma entry form from the website (www.RGT.org). Closing dates for entry and entry fee lists are listed on the RGT website. If you do not have internet access call the office on 020 8231 2751.

What Do I Get If I Pass?

Candidates who successfully complete a Concert Performance Diploma in acoustic guitar will receive an official University of West London / London College of Music Exams Diploma certificate. In addition, successful candidates are permitted to append the letters 'DipLCM', 'ALCM', 'LLCM' or 'FLCM', as appropriate, to their name.

When Will I Get The Result?

A written report will normally be posted within four weeks of the examination date. Results cannot be issued over the telephone. Certificates for successful candidates are normally dispatched within 16 weeks of the date of the examination.

If I Don't Pass Do I Need To Re-take The Whole Examination?

Yes, the entire examination must be completed on re-examination.

Where And When Are Diploma Examinations Held?

In the UK, examinations are held three times a year: Spring (March/April), Summer (June/July) and Winter (November/December). Overseas candidates should contact their RGT national representative or the RGT UK Head Office for details of examination dates. DipLCM examinations may be held at a wide range of exam centres. In the UK, Associate, Licentiate and Fellowship Diplomas are normally examined by a panel of two examiners and, dependent upon the number of entrants from each area, these examinations may only take place at a limited range of exam centres (for example, in the UK candidates should be prepared to travel to London for their examination).

Can I Use An Electric Guitar For The Examination?

No, an acoustic (or electro-acoustic) guitar must be used (either steel strings or nylon strings are acceptable).

If I Wish to Use An Amplifier Do I Need To Bring One To The Exam?

The examiner will provide a small amplifier (if needed). Candidates may bring their own amplifier, effects units and CD player or other playback system if required, providing these can be set-up quickly and independently. Please note that a playback system for CDs or mp3s etc. will not normally be provided by the examiner; candidates should provide their own playback system if they require this facility.

Where Can I Obtain More Information?

The Acoustic Guitar Concert Performance Diploma Syllabus contains the examination regulations and information on how the examinations are assessed. It can be downloaded from the RGT website: www.RGT.org (Candidates without internet access should send a large S.A.E. to the RGT office requesting a print-out of the syllabus.)

ANYWHERE. ANYTIME.



CD-60
H70152
Spruce Top,
Mahogany Back
and Sides, with Case

Available in Black,
Natural and Sunburst



CD-140S
H70156
Solid Spruce Top,
Mahogany Back
and Sides



INCLUDES PREAMP
WITH BUILT-IN TUNER



**TIM
ARMSTRONG
HELLCAT**
580406
Solid Spruce Top,
Mahogany Back
and Sides



INCLUDES PREAMP
WITH BUILT-IN TUNER



SONORAN™ SCE
Solid Spruce Top,
Mahogany Back
and Sides

Available in Natural, Black,
Candy Apple Red and Lake
Placid Blue — H78859

Surf Green and
Shell Pink — J05556



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