MTB Grade 8 Contemporary Singing

MUSIC TEACHERS' BOARD

Section One: Recital (75 marks)

Select Three pieces from the following list (25 marks each)

Pieces in this selection must all be accompanied. The candidate may accompany themselves on any instrument or use a live or pre-recorded backing track/ accompaniment.

As an alternative to the pieces below, candidates may perform up to 3 free choice pieces. Please note that the editions quoted in this syllabus are appropriate for the standard of this grade. However, other editions of the same pieces exist at harder or easier levels and these would not be suitable for this grade. However, they may be used for different grades if of the appropriate grade standard. For guidance on free choice click here. Contemporary syllabuses cover a range of styles including Rock, Pop, Jazz, Latin etc.

Composer/Artist	Title	Book/Cat. Ref	Publisher/Source
Sia	Chandelier	Tomplay	tomplay.com
Alicia Keys	Empire State of Mind	Tomplay	tomplay.com
Righteous Brothers/ Gareth Gates	Unchained Melody	15887 (Backing Track 37742)	Sheet Music Direct (Backing Track)
Gladys Knight	Midnight Train to Georgia	14624	Sheet Music Direct (Backing Track widely available)
Dolly Parton/ Whitney Houston	I Will Always Love You	91089 (Backing Track 34779)	Sheet Music Direct (Backing Track)
Eva Cassidy/ Various Artists	Somewhere Over the Rainbow	33875	Sheet Music Direct (Backing Track widely available)
Wicked	Defying Gravity	415267	Sheet Music Direct (Backing Track widely available)
Led Zeppelin	Kasmir	44368 (Backing Track 104500)	Sheet Music Direct (Backing Track)
Queen	The Show Must Go On	35794	Sheet Music Direct (Backing Track widely available)
Stephen Schwartz	Popular	Vocal Selections: Wicked	Hal Leonard
Stephen Schwartz	The Wizard And I	Vocal Selections: Wicked	Hal Leonard

Tomplay pieces often include accompaniments and can be purchased individually using the link next to each piece or via a discounted subscription for MTB teachers/learners. To learn more about Tomplay and the subscription click here.

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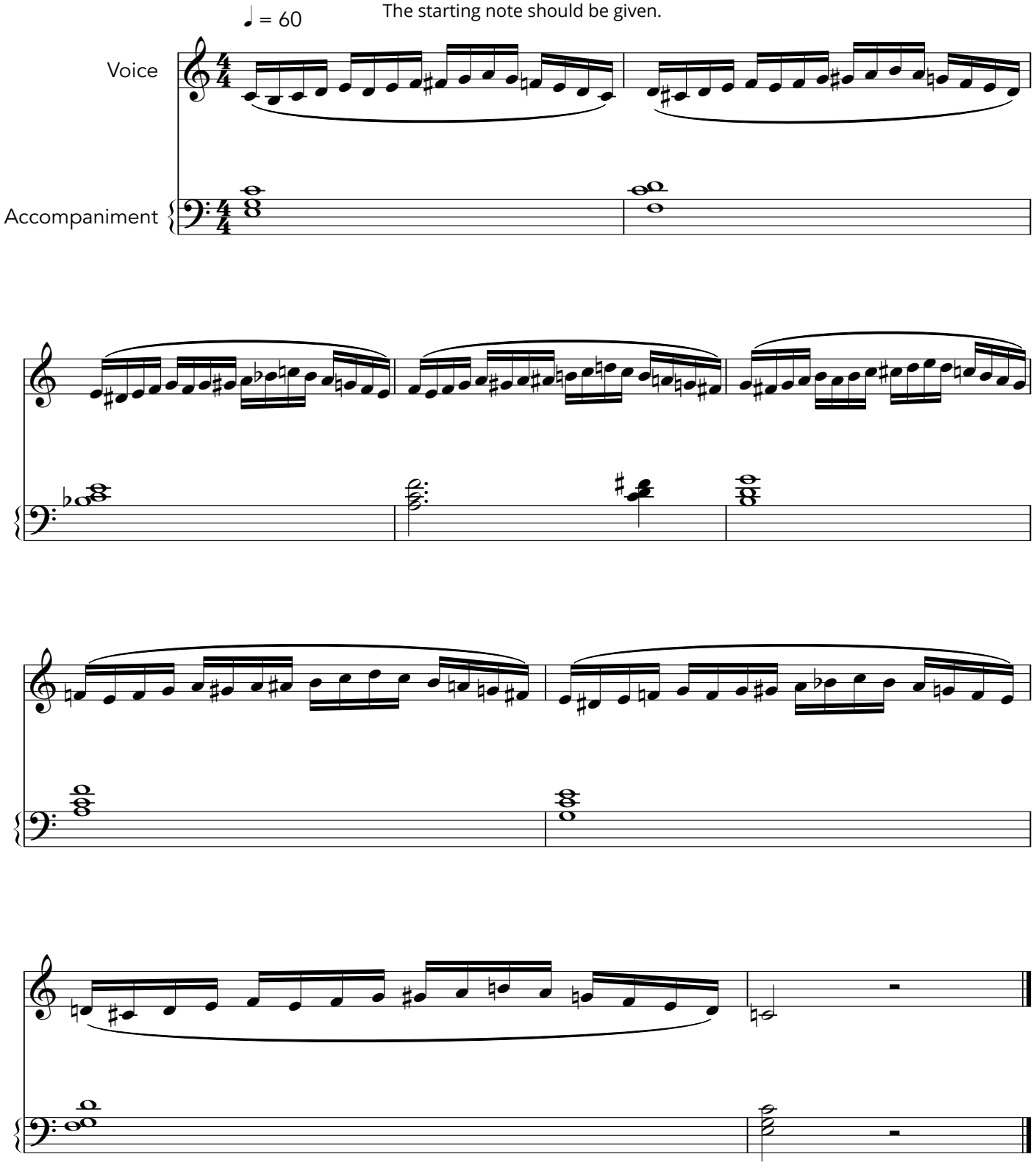
Click here for the MTB accompaniment recordings

Technical Exercises

For the exam perform all of the 3 exercises below

Exercise 1 - Chromaticism
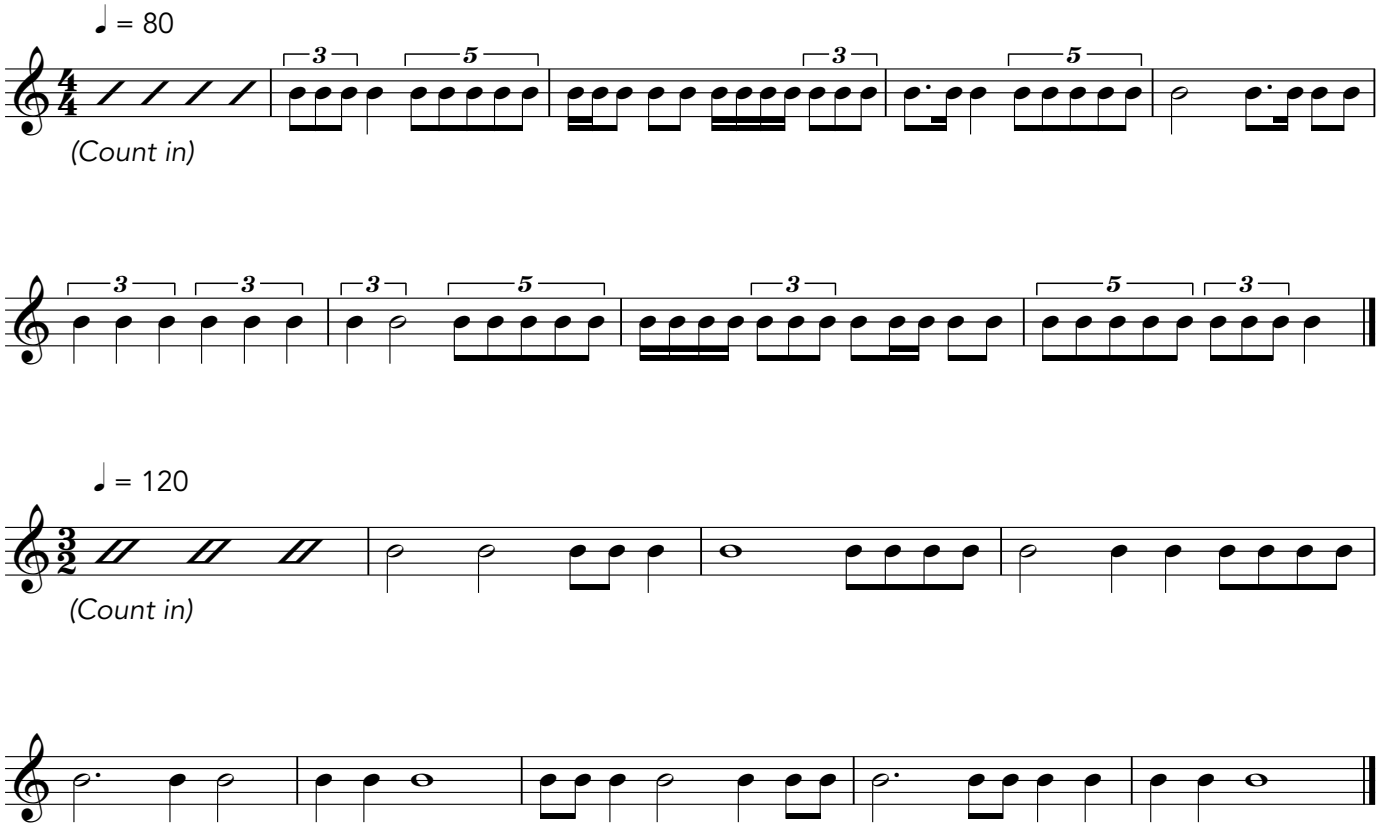
Sing the following with the accompaniment using any suitable syllable or vowel sound.
The starting note should be given.



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Exercise 2 - Rhythm Skills

Sing the following rhythms on any single note using any suitable syllable or vowel sound. The count ins may be provided by the teacher or the candidate.



Exercise 3 - Singing A Cappella

This is an opportunity to showcase your singing skills in an a cappella or unaccompanied setting. You may choose to perform a section of a song and this may be from your recital choices, another piece of a similar standard or a song that you have composed yourself. Candidates are welcome to have a metronome/click and starting note immediately before the a cappella performance but after that the singing must be unaccompanied. For this section please sing between 1 and 2 minutes.

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Syllabus Guidance

- The teacher is encouraged to speak to the candidate during the exam to put them at ease or to help them understand what is being requested. For more guidance on conducting/taking the exam click here.
- The recording should not be turned off at any point during the exam until all elements of the assessment have been completed. For more recording advice click here.
- For Practical Grades follow the above syllabus requirements. To learn about Performance Grade requirements please click here.
- To learn more about how our exams are marked visit our Marking Criteria Page here.
- Unless otherwise specified, vocal repertoire may be transposed into any key suitable for the candidate's range.

Recital Guidance - Practical & Performance Grades:

- Repeats are optional for MTB Exams, however, they are encouraged as they are often structurally important and can offer opportunities to display greater dynamic and expressive variation.
- All D.C. and D.S. marks should be observed (unless the syllabus specifies otherwise).
- The candidate should introduce each piece they are about to perform by stating its title.
- The teacher may help the candidate tune up before the exam begins. This should be done before starting the recording.
- Recorded accompaniments are acceptable as an alternative to a live accompanist. Make sure it is played on a different device to the one recording the exam.
- The composer's dynamics, phrasing etc should be observed in the pieces. Any editorial markings may be altered to allow for a personal interpretation. Where a piece contains no, or only limited, dynamic and expressive markings, the candidate is encouraged to include their own additional dynamic or expressive elements.
- Where a candidate presents Free Choice repertoire these must be of the correct grade standard. If such pieces fall below the required grade standard then examiners may reflect this in their marking. Free Choice Guidance can be found here.
- Candidates wishing to submit 2 or more pieces with Jazz improvisation may do so as part of our free choice options, these will be marked by a Jazz specialist who will normally specialise in that section of instruments (i.e. Wind, Brass etc).

Technical & Musicianship Guidance - Practical Grades:

- The tempi given for the technical section exercises (scales from memory/technical exercises etc.) are minimum speed requirements.
- There are no unprepared elements in an MTB exam. All Technical and Musicianship elements should be practised by the candidate prior to taking the exam.
- If the Listening Skills fall outside of the candidate's vocal range, they may be transposed. However, all exercises within a test must be transposed by the same interval.
- For the duet option, the teacher part may be performed by the teacher, another pupil or any suitable player on any instrument from the same family (wind/brass/strings etc) with octave transpositions made as necessary. Alternatively, a recording can be used for the teacher part during the exam.
- Duets set in the Musicianship section cannot to be used as recital pieces.

Note: In contrast to other MTB syllabuses, 'Section Three: Musicianship Section' (Reading Skills, Listening Skills and Duet) does not feature in Contemporary syllabuses

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