

Music performance diplomas: Timing guidance

Information about Trinity's music performance diplomas can be found in the syllabus and repertoire lists, available at trinitycollege.com/performance-diplomas. This document provides additional guidance relating to the timing of diploma programmes.

PERFORMANCE TIMINGS

ATCL: 32-38 minutes

LTCL: 37-43 minutes

FTCL: 42-48 minutes

These timings refer to the total duration of all works performed, including short breaks between movements, but not between works. Breaks between movements should be kept to a minimum where possible and should adhere to any directions in the score (eg *segue/attacca*).

As a general guide, there should not be more than 10 seconds between movements of a sonata, suite or concerto, unless there are necessary adjustments to be made to an instrument, for instance, occasional cleaning of woodwinds/brass, or tuning of instruments.

- ▶ Each work is timed as a separate entity. The total performance time does not include breaks **between** complete works.
- ▶ The total performing time of the works must reach the minimum for each diploma level (without inclusion of repeats, see below). There is no leeway here, and diplomas where the total performing time falls under the stipulated time will be referred and a penalty applied.
- ▶ In extreme cases, this can result in invalidation of the recital.
- ▶ Diplomas that exceed the maximum time allotted for the exam may be curtailed.

REPEATS

There is only limited flexibility available regarding repeats.

Repeats that should be observed

- ▶ All *da capo* and *dal segno* instructions should be observed.

Repeats that should not be observed

- ▶ Repeats of the exposition/recapitulation sections must not be played (in concertos and sonatas, for instance).
- ▶ Repeats of more than two bars in any work must not be played.
- ▶ Repeats within variations must not be played, even where there are 1st and 2nd time options.

TIMING THE RECITAL

Recitals are timed carefully by the examiner. If repeats are included, the recital will be referred to our post-results team, delaying release of results. A mark penalty may also be applied, as follows:

- ▶ If repeats are included but, after deduction of the time taken for these, the total performance time is still above the required minimum, the recital will be referred and a reminder letter issued.
- ▶ If repeats are included and, after deduction of the time taken, the total performance falls below the minimum requirement, the recital will be referred and a penalty applied.

The only exception is in the performance of a Baroque suite. If repeats are performed, the examiner will use their judgement to determine whether these have been musically justified by the inclusion of significant embellishment/ornamentation. If justified, they will be allowed to stand. If not, the time taken will be removed and the recital will be referred.

INTRODUCTIONS/EPILOGUES IN ACCOMPANIED EXAMS

- ▶ In accompanied exams, long introductions and endings in all single pieces should be shortened in a way that is musically appropriate.
- ▶ If single concerto movements are included in the programme, long *tutti* passages at the start or finish should be shortened in a way that is musically appropriate.
- ▶ Where a complete concerto is being performed, *tuttis* should be appropriately shortened at the start and finish of the work.
- ▶ It is recognised that *tutti* passages within the work form part of the structure and also allow instrumentalists to conserve stamina. *Tutti* passages which occur within a larger work may therefore be played.
- ▶ Where introductions/endings/opening and closing *tuttis* have not been shortened as required, part of the time taken will be deducted from the total performance time. Up to 30 seconds can be allowed at the beginning and/or end of a work for these.
- ▶ Where the deduction of any extra time taken causes the total duration of the pieces performed to fall below the minimum limit, the exam will be referred, as above.