

Classical Performance Diplomas 2026



Why Trinity Performance diplomas?

Who are they for?

Trinity diplomas are your first step into professional musicianship, taking candidates on their next steps beyond graded exams. Available for a wide range of instruments, they help take candidates on a structured pathway – from ATCL at RQF* Level 4, through to LTCL at Level 6 and FTCL at Level 7 – into a whole range of music careers. These include professional performance, teaching and further study in the creative arts. Diplomas also give you professional recognition with letters after your name, making them a widely-recognised qualification.

There are no prerequisites for our ATCL, LTCL or FTCL diplomas, so these exams can be taken whether or not you have completed any grade exams.



Diplomas give you professional recognition with letters after your name.



What is a performance diploma?

It is a professional performance that takes place in front of one of our diploma examiners or can be submitted digitally. Our instrument repertoire lists, available online, contain more than 4000 pieces selected by our specialists. These, alongside our own-choice programme option, allow you to focus on your individual strengths and musical interests. Further advice from our international teaching community on repertoire selection can be found in our [diploma resources](#).

Focus on performance

The focus of these qualifications is performance, with detailed feedback given on specific performance areas: fluency & accuracy, technical assurance & application, and musical sense & communication, with 96% of your marks allocated to the performance element of the exam.

To find out more, you can download our 2026 [Classical Music Performance Diploma Syllabus](#).

* Regulated Qualifications Framework

Fast online approvals process

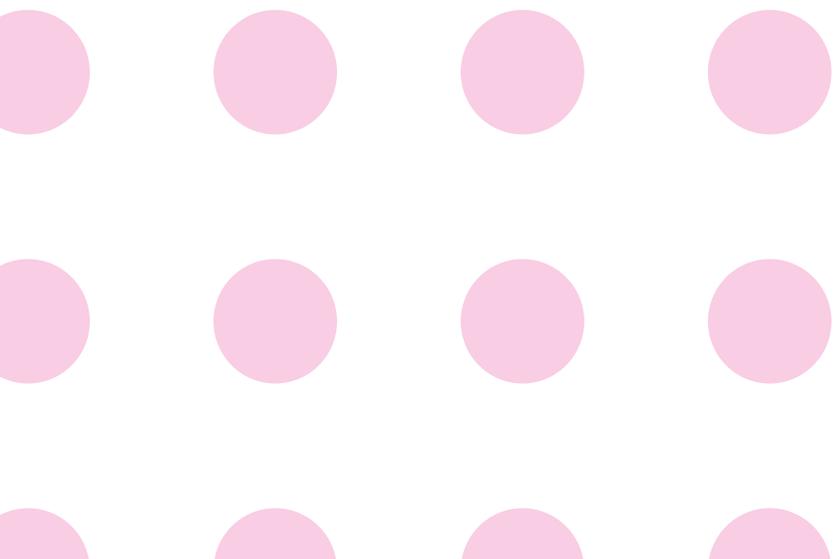
Our online approvals process means that you can get your diploma programme approved by our instrumental specialists in a short timeframe. We'll have a response to you within 15 working days. Once issued, your approval letter will be valid for three years, giving you time to prepare your recital and enter for the exam as soon as you feel ready.

Professional recognition

Candidates who successfully pass their performance diploma exam can use the appropriate letters (ATCL, LTCL or FTCL) after their name. These are internationally recognised in the musical teaching and performing community.

Expert support

As the next step in your journey to professional musicianship, we're keen to support you to become an expert in performance. Our diploma resources contain a wealth of information from our international experts, to support you in choosing your programme, understanding how diplomas are marked and the benefits of holding a Trinity performance diploma.



What's changed?

The 2026 impression of Trinity's performance diplomas syllabus features a number of revisions, in response to feedback from teachers and candidates worldwide. The following is a summary of the principal changes:

1. Combined syllabus format

Trinity's performance diplomas can be taken either as a face-to-face exam or digitally. The revised syllabus combines both assessment formats, including aspects such as filming requirements and timings guidance.

2. Repertoire lists

We understand how key our repertoire lists are to helping candidates construct their programmes; whether they use these exclusively, or as a basis for considering own-choice works to include. We've made substantial updates to the repertoire lists since these were last reviewed in 2022, adding more than 200 new pieces and songs, across a wide range of styles. Many of the new additions are items which have been approved as own-choice repertoire over the past few years, ensuring that the lists reflect the repertoire which learners want to play. Working with our instrumental specialists, we have made numerous other changes, such as reviewing the choice of listed editions to include those that are more commonly available or to reflect the latest research and performance practice.

3. FTCL diploma

Our flagship FTCL diploma can now be taken digitally as well as through a face-to-face assessment, providing candidates with the greatest possible flexibility and convenience on when and where they can take their exam, whilst maintaining our high expectations of the mastery of the chosen subject. We've taken away the prerequisites for this qualification, so if you feel you are ready to take this level of exam, you can put yourself forward for it without any barriers to entry.

4. Programme construction

Accompanied instrumentalists may perform unaccompanied works for up to 40% of their programme duration if they wish. A single **listed** work which comprises more than 40% of the total duration will also be accepted. This allows more flexibility than previously, where a maximum of one such work was permitted.

5. Approvals process

Our online approvals process has proven extremely popular and allows candidates to have their diploma programme considered by our experts with a response within 15 working days. Approval letters are now valid for three years, giving candidates more time to prepare their recital.

Putting performance first.

