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Free Choice Piece  
**VOCALS**

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## VOCALS

Please read through the following section if you are thinking of performing any songs not published in the Rockscool Vocals grade books.

### For all grades:

The appropriate grade book must be brought to the exam.

Candidates are not permitted to choose all Performance Pieces from the wider repertoire and free choice pieces. For a grade exam two out of three pieces may be free choice pieces, for Performance Certificate three out of five may be free choice pieces.

Candidates will need to bring the sheet music and a backing track (without the examined vocal part) to the exam for all Free Choice Pieces, including songs chosen from the **wider repertoire**.

Backing tracks for Free choice pieces may be provided on CD, MP3 player, tablet or USB. Please note that the audio cannot be streamed from a device and must be a downloaded audio file for accessible playback on the exam day.

### Selecting Free choice pieces:

The following checklist has been devised to help you assess whether or not the repertoire you have chosen meets the criteria established for Performance Pieces in the grade you are taking.

\* Indicates that noted point should be included in the song.

Other points are discretionary, depending on other elements of the piece chosen. If not all requirements are included in the notation, candidates may use improvisation sections to incorporate these into the piece. If after reading this guide you still require help to determine if your chosen song is suitable for the grade please forward a copy of the sheet music to **freechoicepieces@rslawards.com**

Note! Please allow **four weeks** for a decision regarding the suitability of the submitted piece.



## VOCALS GRADE 1

### Section A: Essential Elements

The piece must be performed to a backing track \*

For this grade the backing track should be between 1min-3min long \*

A copy of the backing track must be provided to the examiner on a CD, MP3 player, tablet or USB \*

The piece must exist in a notated copy and this sheet music must be provided to the examiner on the day of the exam \*

### Section B: Performance Elements

#### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

The piece must demonstrate consistent/maintained tone \*

The piece must make use of solid chest voice \*

The piece should cover a range of at least a 5th

#### EXPRESSIVE TECHNIQUES

The piece should include some simple phrasing



## VOCALS GRADE 2

### Section A: Essential Elements

The piece must be performed to a backing track \*

For this grade the backing track should be between 1min-3min long \*

A copy of the backing track must be provided to the examiner on a CD, MP3 player, tablet or USB \*

The piece must exist in a notated copy and this sheet music must be provided to the examiner on the day of the exam \*

### Section B: Performance Elements

#### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

The piece must demonstrate consistent/maintained tone with some colouring and variation \*

The piece must make use of solid chest voice \*

The piece should cover a range of at least an octave

The piece should make use of intervals up to a 3rd

#### SSIVE TECHNIQUES

The piece should allow for some dynamic changes

The piece should include some personal phrasing



## VOCALS GRADE 3

### Section A: Essential Elements

The piece must be performed to a backing track \*

For this grade the backing track should be between 1.30min-4min long \*

A copy of the backing track must be provided to the examiner on a CD, MP3 player, tablet or USB \*\*

The piece must exist in a notated copy and this sheet music must be provided to the examiner on the day of the exam \*

### Section B: Performance Elements

#### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

The piece must demonstrate consistent tone with some colouring and variation \*

The piece must make use of solid chest voice \*

Head voice should be demonstrated

Some consistency of register changes should be shown

The piece should cover a range of at least an octave

The piece should make use of intervals up to a 3rd

#### EXPRESSIVE TECHNIQUES

The piece should allow for some dynamic changes including gradual changes

The piece should demonstrate some stylistic awareness

The piece should include some personal phrasing



## VOCALS GRADE 4

### Section A: Essential Elements

The piece must be performed to a backing track \*

For this grade the backing track should be between 2min-4min long \*

A copy of the backing track must be provided to the examiner on a CD, MP3 player, tablet or USB \*

The piece must exist in a notated copy and this sheet music must be provided to the examiner on the day of the exam \*

### Section B: Performance Elements

#### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

The piece must demonstrate consistent tone with confident colouring and variation \*

The piece must make use of well-controlled chest voice and head voice/falsetto \*

Transitions between registers should be fluent

The piece should show good use of diction and articulation \*

Some variety/complexity of rhythms should be demonstrated

The piece should cover a range of at least an octave

The piece should make use of intervals of a 4th or more

#### EXPRESSIVE TECHNIQUES

The piece must allow for contrasting dynamic colouring \*

The piece must demonstrate stylistic awareness \*

The piece should include developed phrasing



## VOCALS GRADE 5

### Section A: Essential Elements

The piece must be performed to a backing track \*

For this grade the backing track should be between 2min-4min long \*

A copy of the backing track must be provided to the examiner on a CD, MP3 player, tablet or USB \*

The piece must exist in a notated copy and this sheet music must be provided to the examiner on the day of the exam \*

### Section B: Performance Elements

#### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

The piece must demonstrate consistent and maintained tone \*

The piece must make use of well-controlled chest voice and head voice/falsetto \*

Transitions between registers should be fluent \*

The piece should show good use of diction and articulation \*

Variety and complexity of rhythms should be demonstrated

The piece should cover a range of at least a 9th

The piece should make use of intervals of a 5th or more

#### EXPRESSIVE TECHNIQUES

The piece must allow for stylistic and varied dynamic colouring \*

The piece should demonstrate advanced and well executed stylistic awareness and technique \*

The piece should include advanced phrasing



## VOCALS GRADE 6

### Section A: Essential Elements

The piece must be performed to a backing track \*

For this grade the backing track should be between 2.30min-5min long \*

A copy of the backing track must be provided to the examiner on a CD, MP3 player, tablet or USB \*

The piece must exist in a notated copy and this sheet music must be provided to the examiner on the day of the exam \*

### Section B: Performance Elements

#### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

The piece must demonstrate well maintained and varied tone throughout the registers \*

The piece must make use of solid chest voice and head voice/falsetto \*

Transitions between registers should be very fluent \*

The piece should show good use of diction and articulation \*

Varied and complex rhythms should be demonstrated

The piece should cover a range of at least a 11th

The piece should make use of intervals of a 6th or more

#### EXPRESSIVE TECHNIQUES

The piece must allow for contrasting dynamic colouring \*

The piece must demonstrate stylistic awareness and technique \*

The piece should include developed and personal phrasing



## VOCALS GRADE 7

### Section A: Essential Elements

The piece must be performed to a backing track \*

For this grade the backing track should be between 2.30min-5min long \*

A copy of the backing track must be provided to the examiner on a CD, MP3 player, tablet or USB \*

The piece must exist in a notated copy and this sheet music must be provided to the examiner on the day of the exam \*

### Section B: Performance Elements

#### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

The piece must demonstrate well maintained and varied tone throughout the registers \*

The piece must make use of solid chest voice and head voice/falsetto \*

Transitions between registers should be very fluent \*

The piece should show good use of diction and articulation \*

Varied and complex rhythms should be demonstrated

The piece should cover a range of at least a 11th

The piece should make use of large intervallic leaps

#### EXPRESSIVE TECHNIQUES

The piece must allow for stylistic and varied dynamic colouring \*

The piece must demonstrate advanced and well executed stylistic awareness and technique\*

The piece should include advanced, personal phrasing



## VOCALS GRADE 8

### Section A: Essential Elements

The piece must be performed to a backing track \*

For this grade the backing track should be between 3min-5min long \*

A copy of the backing track must be provided to the examiner on a CD, MP3 player, tablet or USB \*

The piece must exist in a notated copy and this sheet music must be provided to the examiner on the day of the exam \*

### Section B: Performance Elements

#### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

The piece must demonstrate well maintained and varied tone throughout the registers \*

The piece must make use of solid chest voice and head voice/falsetto \*

Transitions between registers should be very fluent \*

The piece should show good use of diction and articulation \*

Varied and complex rhythms should be demonstrated

The piece should cover a range of at least a 11th

The piece should make use of large intervallic leaps

#### EXPRESSIVE TECHNIQUES

The piece must allow for stylistic and varied dynamic colouring \*

The piece must demonstrate advanced and well executed stylistic awareness and technique \*

The piece should include advanced, personal phrasing