Paper 8  Advanced Skills 2020

The selection of options should be made in consultation with Martin Ennis (for options relating to Keyboard Skills) or Sam Barrett (for options relating to Choral Skills) and the Director of Studies. Questions may also be addressed to the Director of Performance, Maggie Faultless. Please refer to the Notes and Guidance and online Declaration form.

Candidates must submit the Declaration Form (to be released via Moodle) for approval by the Chairman of Part II and the Director of Performance by 5.00pm on 21 April.

This paper is comprised of 8 options. Candidates require 3 credits from this paper.

Option 2 = 2 credits, all other options = 1 credit

Candidates must select

Either  Option 2 plus any one other option
Or  Any three from options 3-9

Please note: some options in the revised Paper 4 are also options in the revised Paper 8.
If taking both Paper 4 and Paper 8, candidates may not offer twice any of the following options: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.
Option 2 cannot be offered twice on the same instrument or voice; if offered for Paper 8 it must be either a vocal or keyboard performance.

Options:

(Option 1 is for Advanced Performance candidates only.)

2  A video of between 12 and 15 minutes’ duration of the candidate’s performance of repertoire from the original submitted programme or alternative repertoire.
Candidates should seek approval of the complete programme from the Director of Performance by 5.00pm on 21 April.

3  An audio or video recording of between 20 and 30 minutes’ duration from a performance by the candidate of solo, concerto, or one-to-a-part chamber ensemble repertoire performed and recorded since 1 October 2019.
Candidates should seek approval for the chosen repertoire from the Director of Performance by 5.00pm on 21 April.

4  A review and comparison not exceeding 1,500 words of three commercial recordings (available online) of a chosen work.

5  Recommended for candidates who previously offered Advanced Skills (Keyboard)
Two tests from Advanced Skills i) Advanced Keyboard:
a) score-reading from an orchestral score;
b) realisation of figured bass.

6 **Recommended for candidates who previously offered Advanced Skills (Choral)**
Two tests from Advanced Skills ii) Choral Performance:
   a) a passage of Gregorian chant from neumatic notation;
   b) a passage from 20th- or 21st-century choral repertoire.

7 Performance self-reflection not exceeding 1,500 words.

8 A performing edition including a substantial commentary addressing issues relating to performance practice.

9 Should they wish, candidates may propose a further exercise that relates in some way to the topics covered in the Advanced Skills paper. Candidates are asked to bear in mind that any such exercise must reflect the degree of rigour expected at Part II; it must also be substantial enough to stand as a substitute for a third of the new paper. This option may only be taken only with the approval of the Director of Performance.
Part II Paper 8 Advanced Skills: Keyboard/Choral Performance (revised 2020)
Notes and Guidance

The current paper has been devised with the aim of allowing students previously offering Paper 8 (Advanced Skills) to use these areas of their expertise as part of their final assessment.

In recognition of both the varying circumstances students now find themselves in and the variety of skills required in Advanced Skills, there are several pathways through this new paper. It has been designed to be as flexible as possible and to allow students to play to their strengths, whilst acknowledging that current constraints mean that it is not possible to preserve all the elements of the original paper.

Options 2, 3, 5, 6

Video and audio should be submitted using an unlisted YouTube link.
The following might be useful:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Go_HDCANWf8

All submitted videos and audio must be a single take for each movement/work included in the submission. In all videos, the performer must be clearly visible, and in videos of keyboard performances submitted under Option 2, the player’s hands must also be visible.

It is recognised that, at the present time, accompaniment of solo instruments/voices will not generally be possible and many students will not have access to their instrument of choice. Accordingly, videos of partial movements are admissible, as are solo parts without accompaniment. Any available instrument may be used. The quality of the recording will not be assessed. Students must, however, discuss these issues with the Director of Performance.

Repertoire performed in a previous University examination may not be repeated.
Programme notes are not required.
The performance may contain a spoken introduction to the recital or part of the recital.
Candidates must provide a link to or PDF of each piece they are performing (scores or piano reductions, not solo parts), preferably in the edition being used.
Candidates must provide a programme with the pieces listed in the order in which they are performed.

Option 3: Recordings and videos should be accompanied by evidence of the performance, such as a PDF or scanned concert programme or weblink to a listing of the event.

Option 4: Repertoire should be relevant to keyboard/choral skills and the review should focus on issues of performance. Candidates should seek approval for the selected repertoire and recordings from the Director of Performance by 5.00pm on 21 April.
Option 5: Videos of each test must be a single take, in which the player and the player’s hands must be visible. Test 5a may be longer than in previous years and may feature some more challenging passages; this change reflects the additional preparation time. Both tests are to be performed solo; any suitable keyboard may be used. Questions will be released to candidates at noon on 25 May for submission of video (see above) by noon on 26 May.

Option 6: Videos of each test must be a single take. Test 6a will be unchanged in format from previous years. Test 6b may be longer than in previous years and may feature some more technically demanding passages; this change reflects the additional preparation time. Both tests are to be performed solo. Questions will be released to candidates at noon on 25 May for submission of video (see above) by noon on 26 May.

Option 7: The self-reflection may touch on any or all of the following: or on any other relevant topic (in other words, the topics listed below are intended as guidelines rather than as prescriptive instructions):
Musical/technical development (e.g. through principal-study lessons or coaching), chamber performance, orchestral/choral performance, self-generated concerts/recordings/projects, masterclasses, and the listener’s perspective. Why have you undertaken certain activities, and how have they been useful to your artistic development? You may wish to consider questions such as rehearsal/performance strategies, aspects of collaborative music-making, leadership/directing/conducting, artistic aims and aspirations, clarity of communication/presentation, initiative and creativity, quality of perception, and the range of performing experiences.

Option 8: Candidates who select this option and who were previously taking Advanced Skills ii) Choral Performance are advised to continue with existing projects following further guidance from Dr David Skinner.

Option 9: See description and contact the Director of Performance in the first instance.