

# The finest instrument is the mind.

## A Guide for Students and Parents



### The Benefits of Music Education

A wealth of scientific research demonstrates that music education is one of the most powerful tools for realizing a child's full intellectual, social, and creative potential.

Studying music draws on nearly every region of the brain, and it speeds the development of:

- Speech, reading, and language skills
- IQ, memory, and focus
- Empathy and social awareness
- Health and emotional resilience
- Creativity and artistry
- Self-confidence

### The world's finest system of structured music study and assessment

For over 125 years, The Royal Conservatory of Music has provided an unparalleled music education to millions of individuals from across North America. Today, The Royal Conservatory Certificate Program is considered the preeminent music education system in many countries around the world.

The Certificate Program provides:

- An effectively sequenced system of music study from beginner to advanced levels
- A comprehensive integrated approach that supports music literacy and fosters a life-long love and understanding of music
- High School Accreditation: Successful completion of Royal Conservatory examinations is recognized for high school credits in Canada
- A system of music study that is recognized by international music schools, universities and colleges, orchestras and ensembles



"It has become more and more evident that music education can play an important role in a child's development, spurring them towards greater achievements in all areas of their life. In study after study, musicians show better cognitive skills such as attention, memory, and perception, which are supported by changes to the brain itself."

**DR. SEAN HUTCHINS**

Director of Research, The Royal Conservatory



**The Royal Conservatory**  
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## Curriculum and Learning Materials

**The Certificate Program** is a comprehensive and effectively sequenced system of music study and standard of assessment that provides a clear path for well-rounded musical training, from beginner to advanced levels. Available for 21 instruments, Speech Arts, and voice, it encompasses:

- Ten levels (1-10) plus Preparatory Levels and Professional ARCT designations.
- Repertoire, etudes, ear tests, intervals, chords, playbacks/singbacks, and sight reading at each level.
- The academic subjects of rudiments, harmony, analysis, and history.

## The Value of Royal Conservatory Examinations

**A Certificate of Achievement** can be earned at each level of study by successfully completing a Royal Conservatory examination. Students preparing for examinations practice more consistently and advance more quickly. Preparing for and successfully completing an examination builds self-confidence and helps students develop a sense of pride.

Practical examinations evaluate the performance of repertoire, etudes or vocalises, ear training, sight reading, and orchestral excerpts for string, brass, and wind instruments. Written examinations evaluate the understanding of rudiments, harmony, counterpoint, analysis, and music history.

## How to get started with The Certificate Program

- Your teacher will work with you to set short and long term goals, develop a plan of study, and prepare for a successful examination experience.
- Registering for an examination is easy. Visit our website at [rcmusic.ca](http://rcmusic.ca) to set up an account, and to find specific registration and examination dates.
- If you don't already have a teacher, please visit our **National Teacher Directory** to find a teacher near you at [rcmusic.ca/teacher-directory-guide](http://rcmusic.ca/teacher-directory-guide).



Award-winning publications and materials to support The Royal Conservatory Certificate Program are available at music retailers across North America and through our online bookstore at [bookstore.rcmusic.ca](http://bookstore.rcmusic.ca).



### Royal Conservatory Examinations:

- Encourage goal setting and recognizes achievement
- Establish a clear path for well-rounded musical training
- Provide a national standard for students to track their progress and celebrate success

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