

A few thoughts on preparing for Diploma AMusNZ

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Choice of works needs much thought. The wide range of styles on offer should allow the entrant to present a coherent programme and show his/her best qualities.

Careful reading of the criteria (as per syllabus) will give a thorough appreciation of the performance level that is required.

For students and teachers

A pass at Grade 8 with at least B grading is to be preferred.

Prepare the work with critical appraisal and analysis. My professor would ask if I had "exhausted the score"- every detail to be noted. Fingering choices are crucial, too, so that the work is 'fail safe'.

Ensure that the formal structure of chosen works, their place in the development of musical style; and a broad understanding of the history of music, (particularly through the chosen composers and their contemporaries) is given sufficient weight.

Note that this Diploma is rated NZQA level 5.

Listen to as much music as you can; especially live concerts.

Consider a 'trial run' by applying for an assessment of the preparation so far; or by entering a selection of the works for the Performance Certificate.

