VCE VET Music: Performance

Performance examination – End of year

Advice for students and teachers

Summary of performance examination requirements

Full details of the requirements of the VCE VET Music: Performance examination, including compliance requirements, length of examination and assessment criteria, are stipulated in the *Examination specifications*, which can be accessed via the study webpage at [VCE VET Music: Performance](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vet-assessment/past-examinations/Pages/VCEVETMusicPerformance.aspx).

Students will give a live performance as a **soloist** OR as a member of a **group.**

The task will be assessed by a panel of examiners using the assessment criteria published in the *Examination specifications*.

Students, in consultation with schools, will select the instrument(s) and performance program in accordance with the requirements of the examination.

Students will be assessed on all instruments played in the performance.

**Works presented for assessment in one VCE or VCE VET Music study cannot be presented for assessment in another VCE or VCE VET Music study.**

Length of examination

There is no minimum length of performance time for these examinations; however, performances must not exceed the following maximum lengths of performance time:

* 25 minutes for one assessed performer
* 30 minutes for 2 or 3 assessed performers
* 35 minutes for 4 or 5 assessed performers
* 45 minutes for 6 assessed performers

Students should allow, within the maximum time limits, for changeover time, and getting settled for performing; for example, for adjusting stool and music stands and tuning.

Number of performers permitted

Students presenting for assessment **as a soloist** must perform completely solo, with a pre-recorded accompaniment or with **no more than one** non-assessed accompanist at a time. Accompanists may change instruments during the examination.

Students presenting for assessment **in a group performance** must be part of a group containing between 2 and 10 concurrent performers, where the minimum number of students presenting for assessment is one and the maximum is 6. Non-assessed performers may include:

* other students enrolled in VCE or VET Music studies
* up to 2 teachers/trainers
* up to 4 other individuals.

On any day, assessed students can perform in other groups as non-assessed performers but only after they have been assessed.

Non-assessed performers and accompanists

Non-assessed performers and accompanists must not:

* play the same instrumental part concurrently with a student presenting for assessment
* play the same unison/melodic line concurrently with a student presenting for assessment
* take a prominent role in a group’s presentation or group interaction
* announce works, count in, conduct, direct or lead the ensemble
* visually or audibly obscure the performance of students presenting for assessment
* improvise or take solos that significantly reduce the time for the students presenting for assessment.

Recorded accompaniment

* Students may use a pre-recorded accompaniment for one or more works.
* The recording may include sounds of one or more instruments.
* The recording may be purchased as a pre-recorded CD or students may present their own pre-recorded accompaniment.
* The backing track must not include a recording of the parts that are to be performed by the assessed student(s).
* Recorded backing tracks must be cued ready to play.

The content of the accompaniment will not be assessed.

Examination date and centre

The date and examination centre are determined by the VCAA. Schools will receive details of this in late July and will then distribute the details to students.

All students undertaking assessment will be given a **Student Advice Slip** containing details of the examination date, time and examination centre. These will be available on the VASS system of each student’s home school on **29 July 2024**.

Schools must print each individual student advice slip and distribute advice slips to their students.

All requests for changes to examination dates and/or centres must be made via the student’s school.

Materials and equipment

Students must bring their own instrument(s) to the performance.

An acoustic piano will be provided at all venues.

**All other equipment, including PA systems, amplifiers and music stands must be provided by the student.**

Provision should be made by the student for any equipment failure; for example, students should bring spare reeds, strings, cables, etc.

Students may use sheet music (except for the required piece to be played from memory).

No electronic mixing of sound, other than adjustment of sound by the individual student for his/her instrument, will be allowed during the performance.

The sound volume during the examination must be within the limits prescribed by health and safety regulations as ‘safe’. Assessors can request that sound levels be turned down if they deem that these levels are ‘unsafe’.

Documents to bring to the examination centre

Students must bring the following to the performance venue:

* their individual Student Advice Slip
* some form of photo identification (e.g. a student concession card, learner driver permit, driver licence or school identification card)
* [Performer statement](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vet-assessment/past-examinations/Pages/VCEVETMusicPerformance.aspx)
* [[Recording consent](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vet-assessment/past-examinations/Pages/VCEVETMusicPerformance.aspx)](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vet-assessment/past-examinations/Pages/VCEVETMusicPerformance.aspx) form\*

\*All accompanists and non-assessed, non-student performers are required to confirm their consent to being recorded, as part of the recording of the student’s performance examination. These recordings are used by the VCAA for quality assurance purposes and may be used for evaluation or training purposes.

All forms are available via the study webpage at VCE VET Music: Performance on the VCAA website.

Arrival at the examination centre

Arrival time at the examination centre is **30 minutes** before the start time of the examination. VCAA staff will not permit entry to the venue before this time.

Up to one full hour prior to the first examination start time for each school will be provided for setting up.

In the case of groups of students arriving at a venue with teachers and/or other adults, it is the responsibility of teachers to ensure proper supervision of students outside the venue prior to the allocated time for entering the venue. Whole school groups will not be permitted to enter the venue to await their allocated performance time.

Inside the examination centre, VCAA staff will check the identification documents named above and then escort students directly to the examination room.

Any additional persons other than students being assessed will be required to sign in and sign out of the examination centre.

Setting up and packing up

Once all documents have been checked, students will be escorted to the examination room to set up and warm up.

**Up to 3** teachers or other adults may assist in the examination room with unloading, setting up, tuning and warming up. This is in addition to assessed and non-assessed performers.

These persons must leave the examination centre for the duration of the exam but are able to return to assist with packing up if required.

Assessors will not be present in the examination room during the setting-up and packing-up times.

Please note that discussion of any aspect of a performance with assessors is not permitted.

Conduct of the examination

VCAA staff will alert students just prior to the examination commencement time. At this time, ALL persons who are not performing as part of the assessment must leave the examination room and the venue.

Assessors will enter the examination room just prior to the allocated examination start time and will assist students with any administrative tasks required to ensure the smooth running of the examination. This will include the checking of Student Advice Slips and all other required documentation.

An audiovisual recording of all examinations will be made.

The time of the examination will begin from the assessors’ announcement of the candidate number, instrument, date, time and venue. If the performance is still in progress when the maximum time has been reached, the assessors will stop assessing and may stop the performance.

Once the examination commences, non-assessed performers and accompanists:

* must enter the examination room only when they are required to perform
* may remain in the examination room until they have completed their part of the performance
* must leave once they are no longer required as part of the performance.