



RCM
Certificate
Program

A photograph of a woman and a young girl playing a piano together. The woman is leaning over the piano, smiling and looking at the girl. The girl is sitting at the piano, looking down at the keys and smiling. The piano is a dark, polished instrument. The background is blurred, showing greenery and a bright, airy setting.

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO THE RCM CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



Photography: Stuart Lowe

THE ROYAL CONSERVATORY: DEVELOPING HUMAN POTENTIAL

The Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) is one of the largest and most respected music education institutions in the world. For more than 130 years, the RCM has been a global leader in developing human potential through leadership in music and the arts.



The RCM Certificate Program is the foundation of our educational mission; it provides students with a guided path for music study and achievement. More than 500,000 students and 30,000 teachers across North America use the Certificate Program.



Through their engagement with the Certificate Program, more than five million RCM alumni have benefitted from the creative riches of music study, helping them to excel in a wide range of careers, including medicine, education, science, and professional sports.



rcmusic.com/certificateprogram

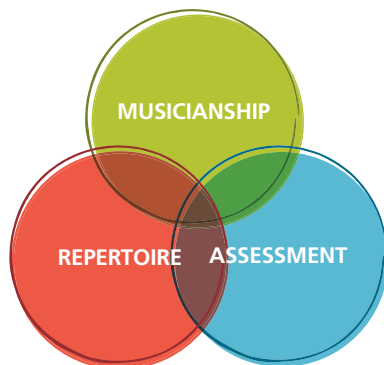
A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF MUSIC STUDY

The RCM Certificate Program provides a recognized national standard of musical success through an effectively sequenced course of study – from elementary through advanced levels.

The integrated curriculum of the RCM program lends itself to a blended learning approach that includes:

- Award winning educational resources
- Digital learning tools vetted by leading North American educators
- Assessments provided by accredited third-party examiners

With a focus on nurturing creativity and developing self-confidence, this comprehensive program allows students to progress at their own pace. Examinations enable students to track their progress and celebrate their accomplishments.



The Certificate Program provides a comprehensive path for musical development, encompassing three main areas:

1. Repertoire

- Students explore a variety of styles and periods, ensuring they gain a breadth of knowledge.



2. Musicianship

- A thoughtful and consistent approach to the development of ear training and sight reading provides students with a solid foundation for independent creative musical exploration.
- Musicianship skills support both practical performance and theoretical understanding.

3. Assessment

- A national standard for exams, with independent, third-party assessment provides students with goals to work towards and challenges them to perform at their highest abilities
- Successfully completing exams builds confidence and offers students the opportunity to celebrate achievements.

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WHY STUDY THEORY?

Theory is an essential component of well-rounded musical training. Through the study of music theory, students gain an understanding of the basic vocabulary and building blocks of the musical language. It also builds aural awareness, develops analytical thinking, and encourages creativity.

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UNDERSTANDING THE LANGUAGE OF MUSIC

Music has often been described as an international language that communicates more profoundly than words. The study of theory opens the door to a deeper understanding of the language of music and provides the skills that will support a lifetime of music making.

It shows students how the basic elements of music – rhythm, melody, and harmony – work together. With this knowledge, they are able to learn music more efficiently, to perform it with greater understanding, and to communicate their creative ideas more effectively.

The RCM Certificate Program integrates the study of theory as an essential component at all levels. Many teachers do not separate “theory” from “practice” and incorporate exploration of the building blocks of music into every lesson.



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DIGITAL LEARNING TOOLS

Our comprehensive suite of digital tools complement study with the Celebrate Theory series offering a holistic learning approach that enables students to continue learning between in-person lessons.



Music Theory Assessment Tool is the ideal resource for identifying gaps in theory comprehension and knowledge to allow for placement at the appropriate RCM theory level.

Music Theory Study Guides for Levels 5, 6, 7, and 8 help students master theory concepts with narrated lessons, audio examples, and interactive exercises. The online theory exam included with the study guide offers students

the opportunity to earn their RCM credits from the comfort of their own home.

Advanced Courses for History Levels 9 and 10 offer students an immersive historical experience with high quality video, audio and photographic examples from different musical eras. The included online exam provides students an opportunity to learn at their own pace.

In addition to theory courses, **RCM Online Ear Training** is available to support students' musicianship development. RCM Online Ear Training helps to improve aural skills through engaging, interactive activities that prepare students for ear-tests at each practical level. Maintain the momentum and learning gained from in-person lessons with regular practice at home!

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UNLOCK YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

The study of music provides a wonderful avenue to help your child develop confidence and boosts their creativity. Music students are more likely to reach their full academic potential. Cognitive benefits include better memory and attention skills, enhanced language skills, improved brain function, and higher IQ scores.

Learn more on our website about our research on the wide-ranging benefits of music education and how to unlock your child's potential.



rcmusic.com/musicstudy

TRACKING PROGRESS

The Certificate Program provides a national standard for students, parents, and teachers to track and measure progress and achievement. At each level, examinations assess both performance and musicianship – providing an objective assessment of the student's skills for that level.

Preparing for and successfully completing an exam helps students build self-confidence and encourages goal setting and achievement. An accredited adjudicator from the RCM's College of Examiners provides objective feedback and comments to support continued growth.

We encourage teachers to prepare their students to take examinations at regular intervals to:

- Challenge students to practice and perform at their highest abilities
- Receive constructive third-party feedback about their achievements
- Build student confidence

Remote Exams

The RCM offers both practical (instrumental) and theory (written) exams online for students to achieve their recognition remotely. The rigors of the College of Examiners remain the same for in-person, and online exams, but the new digital format offers increased flexibility. Students can complete

an exam in their own practice space, use their own instrument, and have no need to travel to a testing location. Remote exams are not bound to any schedule so students can take an exam whenever they are ready.

Learn more about remote exams by visiting rcmusic.com/remotexams

rcmusic.com/examinations

RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENT

Students who successfully complete exams see the benefits in their daily lives and in their music training.

- All examination candidates are eligible to win Gold Medals and other prizes from The Royal Conservatory.
- Many Canadian high schools recognize RCM Certificate Program examinations for credit toward graduation.
- Achievement in RCM Certificate Program examinations is an impressive addition to any résumé. It demonstrates musical accomplishments, creativity, a willingness to learn, and the ability to achieve goals.
- The Associate Diploma (ARCT) from the RCM is recognized internationally as one of the most prestigious academic credentials awarded in music.



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