



TEACHER INFORMATION PACK
FOR NEW TEACHERS

THE LEINSTER
SCHOOL OF
MUSIC &
DRAMA

Est. 1904

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[The LSMD Centre for Teaching](#)

Foreword

The Leinster School of Music & Drama was established in 1904 to provide inclusive and accessible tuition. For over 113 years of experience as a national examining body in Ireland, the LSMD syllabi continue to uphold high standards of music and drama education. Our syllabi are designed to bring out the abilities of each candidate not merely in technique but in musical culture, temperament and understanding.

The LSMD system of examining is thorough and encouraging for each candidate. Through our graded examinations a student's technical and artistic development can be aptly measured through confidence in their abilities and performance. Examinations are a useful resource for students and teachers to measure their advancement in their studies. For those who do not wish to sit examinations, our syllabi offer a rewarding guide for students and teachers who wish to improve their musical and drama skills.

As Ireland's first music institution to have our music examinations recognised by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ); our mission is to cultivate a student's love and understanding of the arts.

The Teacher Information Pack 2017 – 2018 offers advice and information to teachers and candidates about our syllabi. For those who are thinking of pursuing music and drama studies our syllabi provide the foundations for excellence whether it's on the exam floor or concert stages around the world.

To encourage continued professional development for teachers, the LSMD holds workshops throughout the year, should you have any special recommendations please do not hesitate to contact us. We wish you every success in the academic year 2017 – 2018 and would like to thank you for your continued support.

Head of Faculty: Karen Casey

Course Administrator: Kirstie Alison Muldoon

A Note from the Leinster School of Music & Drama Team

Here at the LSMD we are dedicated to the promotion and development of music and drama education, and teacher training. Should you have any queries relating to any of our courses or syllabi please do not hesitate to contact us here at the LSMD.

Head of Faculty: Karen Casey

E-Mail: karen.casey@griffith.ie

Phone: 01 415 0466

Karen Casey is an experienced and dedicated member of staff and head of faculty at the Leinster School of Music & Drama, Griffith College Dublin. Karen holds a Bachelor of Business Degree from Griffith College Dublin. For the past 15 years Karen has been a valued member of the LSMD and instrumental in the development of course content and teacher education programmes, and the promotion of arts education in Ireland. Karen has been involved in a number of initiatives in the LSMD and within Griffith College Dublin. In 2004 Karen was the instigator of the *Excellence Awards* and to this date the awards ceremony which has been running for over 13 years. As head of faculty she worked alongside members of the LSMD lecturing team for the implementation and validation of the LSMD teacher training programmes and courses with QQI. Each year Karen initiates workshops, concerts and examinations throughout Ireland and has provided teachers, students and faculty members of the LSMD with advice and encouragement in their music and drama endeavours.

Course Administrator: Kirstie Alison Muldoon

E-Mail: kirstie.muldoon@griffith.ie

Phone: 01 415 0467

Kirstie Alison Muldoon holds a Master of Musicology and a Bachelor of Music Degree from Maynooth University, and a Higher Diploma in Arts in Music Education from the Leinster School of Music & Drama, Griffith College Dublin. Her main interests lie in musicology and music education in Ireland. Her master's research investigated the role that women played in Irish music institutions in Dublin (1879 – 1924). Kirstie has been invited to and presented her research at national and international conferences. From 2012 – 2017 Kirstie taught piano, keyboard, musicianship and early education programmes in a number of music institutions and organisations in Ireland.

Recognition of the LSMD's Music Grade Examinations

In 1904 Samuel Myerscough (1854 - 1932) founded the Leinster School of Music. At this time no Irish based music institution offered training for musicians who wished to become music teachers. The school aimed to promote music education and give the nation of Ireland accessible music tuition by introducing music teacher training examinations which continues to date.

In 1998 the Leinster School of Music and Drama partnered with Griffith College Dublin. Through this partnership the LSMD has developed a structured system of examinations that were highly regarded by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). The music and drama examination syllabus has been framed on modern and educational principles. From Primary to Diploma graded examinations are based on systematic progression of the candidate.

In keeping with the original aims of the LSMD, further teacher training and education continues to develop with the recognition of the LSMD Associate and Licentiate Diplomas for both music and drama as Level 6 courses on the National Framework of Qualifications of Ireland. These courses provide a natural progression for many students who wish to pursue a career in music and drama pedagogy and performance.

Further developments to our teacher education programmes come with the development of the Higher Diploma in Arts in Music Education and Higher Diploma in Drama Education, all being validated by QQI at a Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications of Ireland.

For PDF versions of our Music and Drama Syllabi please follow the link below: -

[Find The LSMD Syllabi Online](#)

The Sheila Murphy Music and Drama Scholarship Award

*This scholarship serves to pay tribute to the contribution that Sheila made to **the LSMD** and her passion and dedication to music and drama education over five decades.*

Students are invited to apply for **The Leinster School of Music & Drama (1904)** at Griffith College's:- **The Sheila Murphy Music and Drama Scholarship Awards** in memory of former director of the school, **Sheila Murphy**.

Originally from Mitchelstown, Co. Cork, **Sheila**, who was the director of **the LSMD** in the 1980s and was a cherished member of **the LSMD** team. Under her guidance the number of students increased to over 15,000. She played an integral part in the development of curriculum, the promotion of music in Ireland and the teaching of young musical minds around the country of Ireland.

Head of Faculty at the LSMD, Karen Casey said, *'Sheila was an inspiration to the thousands of students who passed through the doors of The Leinster School of Music & Drama. She is sorely missed but I think she would be happy to know that her name will go on to help and inspire future music and drama students and teachers in Ireland'*.

These Scholarships are available to students from September 2017, to LSMD students who have completed their LSMD Grade 8 exams and who wish to progress to **The Certificate in Music Teaching Course HETAC 20 Credits (LSMD Music Associate Diploma/Certificate of Proficiency)** or LSMD Grade 10 to progress to **The Certificate in Drama Performance Course HETAC 20 Credits (LSMD Drama Associate Diploma)**. **The scholarships have a combined value of €5000.**

Candidates (18 years of age and over) wishing to apply for a scholarship should apply before 31st August, on-line/by post, include transcripts, a cover letter stating their interest in applying for the scholarship and the name of their music/drama teacher who may also offer a reference for the candidate. Please contact us at The Leinster School of Music & Drama for further details, other terms and conditions apply. Teachers are advised that they may send details of this scholarship to students who they have taught in previous years, these scholarships are open to all LSMD candidates who have completed their grade 8 (Music) and grade 10 in Speech & Drama exams on the old/new syllabus. Please see griffith.ie/lsm-d-exams for further details.

The Leinster School of Music & Drama – Excellence Awards

The LSMD Excellence Awards was first introduced in 2004 to present a national competition for students taking LSMD grade examinations in Music and Drama. Examiners will nominate students who show excellence performing music or speech and drama pieces. These students will be invited to take part in the call backs for finalists and winners.

Procedure for Nominated Candidates

Students who are nominated for the Excellence Awards will be asked to submit a video link through Dropbox or Youtube links of their performance to: leinster.school@gcd.ie

Students will also have the option to attend the call-backs round here at the LSMD centre. Videos submitted before the deadline will be viewed by the judges.

Teachers are reminded that all video links should be in an exam style setting with a plain wall/curtain backdrop and should not involve students being filmed outside of this backdrop.

Nominated Candidates

Teachers will be informed of any nominations of their students in a letter that will be included with student results. The letter will include all the information needed for submission of the video.

All students selected will receive a certificate stating that they were nominated for the Excellence Awards.

Excellence Awards Layout

Prize winners and Finalists will be listed on the LSMD news webpage and are invited to perform in the annual

All Ireland Excellence Awards Prize Winners Concert in Griffith College Dublin

- Round 1** Student nominated at exam time and letter issued to teacher with results.
- Round 2** Students nominated submit a video link of the piece they were nominated for, or can apply to attend the “call backs” which take place in Dublin.
- Round 3** Winners announced in Teachers Information Pack.
- Round 4** Excellence Awards Concert takes place in GCD in October.

The judges will use the following categories:-

AWARD	PRIZE
Overall Winner	1st
Runner Up (Over 12s)	2nd
Runner Up (Under 12s)	3rd
Runner Up (All Ages)	4th

- The overall prize for Music will include a cheque for **€300 & the LSMD Perpetual Silver Cup.**
- The overall prize for Drama will include a cheque for **€300 & the LSMD Perpetual Silver Cup.**
- Finalists/Runner up candidates will receive a cheque for **€100 each & silver medal.**

All elements of the Excellence Awards are subject to change at the discretion of the LSMD and judging panel.

All decisions are final.

Music Syllabus Overview

In 2004 the LSMD celebrated its centenary with an update of its syllabus. It was felt at the time had come for a further review of content and the introduction of some new ideas to meet the needs of our candidates. Our music syllabi recognises that not all learners are the same and the syllabi takes into account the capacity of teachers at local level to assess and cater for individual learner needs.

The LSMD music syllabi has a number of innovative concepts:-

- a) The repertoire has been broadened to include a wide range of contemporary genres.
- b) A choice option in performance gives students and teachers further choice in higher grades relating to the development their technical and musicianship skills.
- c) Aural awareness is imperative to the development of a student's critical ear which can discern different aspects of performance. With this in mind the objective is to enhance a student's aural skills.
- d) Improvisation and Keyboard Harmony is introduced at the higher grades. This will support student participation in musical environments outside of the classroom.
- e) Students at the higher grades are expected to have knowledge of composers and their works and musical styles.

A broad range of repertoire has been included in our syllabi to suit all levels and tastes of each candidate. Through a structured and systematic learning the LSMD aims to provide a supportive environment to enhance the interest in, and development of music education for both teachers and students. The LSMD graded examination syllabi focus on the all-round development of musicianship and is available for the following instruments:-

- Pianoforte
- Bowed Instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass
- Wind Instruments: Descant Recorder, Flute, Clarinet
- Guitar
- Singing
- Traditional Irish Music
- Online Performance Traditional Irish Music

The Music Exam Layout

Schedule of maximum marks for all grades:

SECTION	MARKS
Scales, Arpeggios & Study	15
Sight – Reading	10
Aural Test	10
Theory	05
Piece 1	20
Piece 2	20
Piece 3	20
<u>Total</u>	<u>100</u>

The grade examinations are marked out of 100. Candidates must secure:-

AWARD	MARK
First Class Honours	85 - 100
Honours	80 - 85
Pass with Merit	75 – 80
Pass	65 - 75

Depending on grade a medal will be awarded to candidates who achieve a mark of 95 or over.

Music Theatre Syllabus Overview

The LSMD examinations in Musical Theatre have been individually designed to introduce each candidate to as many practical aspects of Musical Theatre as possible. The aim of the LSMD musical theatre syllabus is to develop the candidates: - understanding of performance, improvisation, sight – singing, scales and arpeggios, and music theory.

The LSMD music theatre syllabus is designed to incorporate a number of innovative concepts:-

- a) **Presentation:** At the start of the examination candidates should present a folder containing their name, grade and music choice(s), and any other relevant information such as pictures and a summary of show.
- b) **Performance:** Candidates are expected to understand the content of their choice of music and where possible must understand the overall theme of the musical it was taken from. Over the course of the eight grades candidates will be expected to show a deeper understanding of characterization and reach a higher standard of performance.
- c) **Breathing and Voice Production:** A basic understanding of good breathing and vocal technique should be incorporated into the candidates overall performance.
- d) **Conversation and Discussion:** In all grades the candidate will be asked to converse about their selected programme. Candidates are required to answer questions about the themes and context of their chosen pieces and how they prepared for the examinations.
- e) **Notebook:** The notebook should demonstrate research into styles and themes of the show and general period of composition, information on the composer and lyricist/librettist involved, suggestions for costumes, sets and props are also required.

- f) **Improvisation:** From Grade 1 candidates prepare a short piece of improvisation based on their performance piece. This improvisation will lead into their song(s). Duration of improvisation varies according to grade but should not be shorter than 30 seconds.
- g) **Sight Singing:** From Grade 3 the candidate will be given a short musical phrase to sing from sight. Keys and note values will differ according to grade.
- h) **Scales & Arpeggios:** The candidate will be asked to sing scales and arpeggios at each grade as listed in the syllabus. These may be sung to *La, Ah, or Tonic Solfa*.
- i) **Music Theory:** A basic knowledge of musical symbols, terms and dynamics are expected for each candidate. One should understand marks of expression and tempo in order to convey and interpret a song correctly.

Please consult the LSMD Musical Theatre Grade Examinations Syllabus for more information and examples of sight singing, scales and arpeggios, and performance directions. The LSMD graded examinations in musical theatre is available for the following:-

- Solo Performance
- Duet Performance

Speech, Drama and Communication Syllabus Overview

The aim of the LSMD Speech, Drama and Communication syllabus is to develop the candidates understanding of poetry, prose, drama, mime and improvisation, to develop the voice and to introduce candidates to the theory of Good Speech. The examinations in Speech, Drama and Communication have been individually designed to introduce both adults and children to as many practical aspects of Speech and Drama as is possible.

Throughout the examination candidates will be examined on the following:-

- a) **Presentation:** Presentation is geared towards developing the art of communication. Candidates will be marked on their presentation skills and written work presented to the examiner.
- b) **Poetry:** Teachers are advised to choose suitable pieces for their students. Candidates will develop an understanding of themes of poems and use of vocal variety.
- c) **Drama:** Candidates are encouraged to understand the content of the piece and that where possible they understand the overall theme of the book or play it was taken from. Over the course of the ten grades candidates will be expected to show a deeper understanding of characterization and reach a higher standard of performance.
- d) **Prose:** Candidates are advised to choose a selection containing character voice/s and narrative.
- e) **Theory:** An understanding of the required theory is imperative for candidates. Candidates will be expected to relate, where possible, their theory to their prepared pieces.

The LSMD Speech, Drama and Communication graded examination syllabi focus on the all-round development of the candidate and is available for the following:-

- Speech and Drama
- Effective Communication
- Public Speaking
- Choral Verse Speaking
- Solo Acting
- Duologues
- Group Drama

Information for New Teachers

For all new teachers: The LSMD offers a Mentor Programme that links new teachers up with experienced and dedicated pedagogues throughout the country.

The exam serves as motivation and inspiration for the student. They work from a carefully structured syllabus towards a definite goal. It is an assessment by an independent examiner who has an objective viewpoint of the work. All aspects of the exam should be covered well in advance of the exam date.

- It is important that teachers check all the requirements in the current syllabus and consult the errata booklets as details can change from time to time.
- Choosing suitable pieces for the candidate is very important, as each teacher is aware of the capabilities and individual needs and strengths of their pupils.
- It is recommended to encourage pupils to perform their pieces to a friendly audience (family, friends and other students) before the exam. Having small concerts a few weeks before the exam helps to dispel exam nerves on the day.
- Careful planning of work throughout the year helps to have a young student more prepared in the run up to the exam.
- Teachers and examiners should be in contact at least 3 weeks prior to the exam date to discuss timetabling. This is to ensure of smooth running of exams on the day.
- Candidates presenting for exam at a Host Centre are advised to liaise with the Host Centre 3 weeks prior to exams. Teachers are encouraged to accompany students to their exams.

Overall, the examination process should be an enjoyable experience and the result:-

A just reward for all the hard work done.

Procedures for Examination Centres

Local Centre

Any school or teacher presenting a minimum of **twenty** candidates for examination in any one subject may secure a local centre for that subject. For schools and teachers presenting **less than twenty** candidates for examination you can contact **Karen Casey at the LSMD office** and we may be able to link local exam centres together and facilitate your needs.

Heads of schools or centres are requested to ensure that the examination room is clean, warm and well lit, with a table and chair in the venue for the exams. Noise levels outside the exam room should be kept to a minimum.

Absent Candidates and Cancellation of Examination

If through illness a candidate is unable to attend the examination at the appointed time, re-entry will be allowed for the same grade on payment of a **€5.00 Fee**. For a higher grade on payment of the difference of fees plus a transfer fee of **€5.00** will be charged.

Any candidates wishing to **cancel/postpone their old diploma exam** within four weeks of the diploma exam date in December and June sittings will incur a **€100.00 Cancellation Fee**.

*Please note candidates who have been in contact with an infectious illness **must not** be presented for examinations.*

Candidates with Special Needs and Learning Difficulties

Here at the LSMD we are aware that every student's needs differ greatly. Teachers are encouraged to contact the office for advice regarding examinations. Examiners request that teachers consult with the LSMD examiner **in advance** of the exam.

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Established 1904

The Leinster School of Music & Drama

Karen Casey

&

Kirstie Alison Muldoon