

PRSSV Institute of Performing Arts and Heritage

World Music and Dance Examinations

Information for Teachers planning to put students in for Group Performance Awards



PRSSV – Institute of Performing Arts and Heritage

www.sangeet-examinations.co.uk

examinations@prssv.com

Ad: Dominion Library and Centre

112 The Green, Southall UB2 4BQ

Tel: +44 (0) 20 8574 1202

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PRSSV Institute of Performing Arts and Heritage

PRSSV is the leading examination board concerned with the support and the promotion of World Music and Dance and it has over 30 years of experience in providing graded examinations. Currently, the subjects provided are Indian classical music (both Carnatic and Hindustani subjects) and Steel Pan. The organisation is committed to expanding its provision for World Music and Dance as a part of its development process and is currently working on the syllabuses for Folk Dance, Dholak, Bouzouki and Djembe.

The suite of qualifications that PRSSV offers in World Music and Dance Performance include graded qualifications taking a candidate from beginner to advanced level, with performance and teaching qualifications up to Diploma Level. Also, PRSSV provides accredited qualifications in Heritage Skills including oral history, exhibition development, digitisation and care of collections.

All students who appear for these examinations will have studied in a unitised programme accredited by OCN Credit4Learning. This accreditation is evidence that PRSSV examinations are audited to the same standard, quality and expectations as for example a GCSE, an A Level or in Higher Education and are therefore recognised internationally.

Anyone interested in appearing for these examinations or teachers wishing to register their students for these examinations can contact the PRSSV office for further information.

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Information for Teachers planning to put students in for Group Performance Awards

The PRSSV “World Music Group Performance Award” provides avenues for students of different music traditions to express the artistic knowledge and understanding gained by learning a particular tradition – be it Indian, West Indian, Chinese, African, Western, etc.

These Awards are a Level 1 qualification in group performance that allows each candidate to shine at their own particular stage but also shows how they can perform as part of a group. Each candidate within a group can qualify at their own stage. There are four stages.

- Stage One - Emerald
- Stage Two - Ruby
- Stage Three - Sapphire
- Stage Four (Level 1) - Diamond

These Awards not only cater for group teaching, but also encourage good and meaningful group performances and individual development, whilst giving credit to students for their ensemble contribution.

Between 2 and 8 participants** can appear in a group for an examination and they can be of ‘mixed talent’ and therefore undertake different stages. Not all performers in a group need to be an examination candidate.

**For syllabuses for dance, voice and ensembles of more than 8 performers please contact the examinations office at examinations@prssv.com

Pieces, Technical Exercises and Reflective Questions:

Each Award Stage is examined in three parts:

- Part 1: Group Performance;
- Part 2: Technical Demonstration;
- Part 3: Reflective Practice.

The performance piece is to be arranged so that it is sensitive to the uniqueness of a particular culture. As most World music traditions are by definition oral traditions, emphasis will be placed on oral learning and performance from memory.

The length and complexity of the group performance piece will vary according to the stage as will the technical exercises and questions on reflective practice. Also, the arrangement of the piece must provide a challenge to each candidate and give each candidate a chance to ‘shine’ at some point as well as to demonstrate their skills

The following may be obtained from the PRSSV Board: -

- Examples of suitable arrangements for the performance piece
- Examples of suitable exercises
- Examples of questions on reflective practice



Application Process:

Applications can be made at a time suitable to both the teacher and candidates. Teachers wishing to put their students in for an Award will need to register with the PRSSV Board by filling out the Teacher Registration form.

The steps in the application process are as follows:

- A. The teacher submits to the board the piece and technical exercise (notated or described) for approval
- B. The Board provides feedback as to whether the arrangement is suitable. Advice and guidance will be provided if necessary
- C. The teacher obtains written consent from the parent or guardian to video record their child performing for the Award
- D. The teacher fills out the application form and pays a fee to the board (no less than seven days before the assessment dates)
- E. The teacher records the examination within six weeks from the time the application is submitted to PRSSV. The recordings of the examination may be handled only by the Teacher and must not be shown or distributed to candidates/parents/guardians or any other persons
- F. The teacher completes the assessments and ensures recordings are clearly labelled. The confidentiality of assessments and of the recordings made by the Teacher must be maintained at all times
- G. The teacher submits the recordings along with comments and marks to the PRSSV board. For Stage Four, the candidates’ written responses to the reflective practice questions are also submitted.
- H. The teacher's comments and marks are moderated
- I. The teacher is provided with the confirmed results, certificates and badges within three weeks of submission to the board PLUS a blank media of the same format that was submitted for the examination
- J. Successful candidates receive a certificate and an Awards badge

Fees:

Stage One - Emerald	£10
Stage Two - Ruby	£12
Stage Three - Sapphire	£17
Stage Four (Level 1) - Diamond	£25 (This will include an OCN certificate Level 1)

Replacement badges: £5 (plus p&p)

Replacement certificates: Stages 1, 2 and 3 – £8; Stage 4 – £12; (plus p&p)

Withdrawal & Absence:

Entry fees for candidates who withdraw or absent from an Award examination for which they have been entered will be refunded only in exceptional circumstances and (where appropriate) with a medical certificate. The refund will not exceed 60% of the entry fee. Candidates are deemed to have withdrawn if recordings and assessments have not been received within a period of six weeks from application and/or are not in accordance with the guidelines.



The Examination:

1. The Examiner:

Teachers examine their students. Teachers will be given training in order to carry out their role as an examiner for students.

The PRSSV Board of examiners will take on the role of moderator of the exams to ensure parity across venues, across levels and across time.

2. Examining:

The group will perform their piece and then each player will

- undertake a technique activity (according to the ‘level (category)’ and to the requirements of their instrument)
- Stages One, Two and Three:- answer a viva question testing their reflective understanding of what has happened during the performance
- Stage Four:- submit candidates previously written answers to pre-set questions testing their reflective understanding of what has happened during the preparation for the performance. It is expected that this would have formed part of the pupils’ classroom work.

Please note that no notated music or notes are to be allowed in the examination room.

3. Recording:

In order to take part in these examinations the teacher will need a video recorder and tripod.

The teacher will record the group performance including technical demonstration and (for Stages One, Two and Three) viva. NOTE: For Stage Four candidates will provide written answers to pre-set questions.

If the teacher deems it necessary, he or she may record the piece more than once with the camera placed in a different position, to ensure that all members of the group can be heard and seen adequately.

The recording(s) of the piece must be done without interruption and in one go. Recordings of Technical Demonstration and (for Stages One, Two and Three) Reflective Practice can be done in the same session or after a short break. At the start of each recording candidates must state their name and their school or institution.

The recording can be submitted on a SD card, a Mini SD card, a Micro SD card, on a USB memory stick or share it via Google Drive or Dropbox and in one of the following formats: mp4, .mov, .avi, .wmv, .mts.

Please note that it is the Teacher’s responsibility to:-

- ensure that the video recording is of sufficient quality for assessment and moderation purposes. PRSSV cannot be held responsible for any failure in the recording.
- obtain written consent from a parent or guardian to a recording of their child undertaking Group Performance Awards assessment. This must be done on a form and signed forms are to be kept by the teacher. PRSSV has no involvement in this process.



4. Assessment:

The assessment criteria will reflect the musical tradition being presented. World Music traditions emphasise oral skills, therefore reading notation will not be part of the assessment criteria and candidates will be expected to perform from memory.

The assessment of each candidate performing in the group may include:-

- Technical skills: sound, control, fluency.
- Group playing: interaction, leading skills, body language.
- Sounds: tone, timbre, pitch, intonation, consistency, dynamics.
- Musicality: understanding.
- Rhythmic ability: timing, tempo, rhythmic.
- Presentation: phrasing, communication, memory work, sense of performance.

Candidates will be placed in the following categories:

- Commendable pass
- Satisfactory pass
- In progress

5. Certification:

Each successful candidate will receive a certificate and a badge. This does not apply to “in progress” candidates, but they may be awarded a ‘lower’ grade if deemed appropriate. Candidates who were e.g. unable to play because of nervousness, unable to keep in time with the other members of the group or whose playing was inaudible, may be unsuccessful and will receive constructive comments to help them progress.

Rules and Regulations, Complaint Procedures etc.:

Available on request from the PRSSV examinations office

