



THE ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS LE COLLÈGE ROYAL CANADIEN DES ORGANISTES

REQUIREMENTS FOR DIPLOMA OF ASSOCIATE (2023-25)

MARKS

Marks are assigned to each part of the examination as indicated in brackets. In order to pass, candidates are required to obtain at least 70% in each part of the Practical Section of the examination (Repertoire, Tests at the organ, Hymns) and at least 70% (a total of 140 marks in two papers) in the Written Section of the examination. A report will be sent to each candidate showing itemized marks and the comments of the examiners.

EDITIONS

Suggested editions follow titles in the lists below. Where no publisher is suggested, any standard edition may be used.

PRACTICAL SECTION (300 Marks)

1. (100) Repertoire

Play one piece from each of the following lists. Candidates are advised to select a balanced programme. Pieces chosen must be indicated on the application form. An Associate candidate may substitute one piece of his/her choice for one of the following pieces; approval for the change must be obtained from the Examinations Committee by December 31 preceding the application date.

List A

- Bach, J. S. – Prelude and Fugue in F minor, BWV 534
- Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele, BWV 654
- Dies sind die heil'gen Zehn Gebot, BWV 678
- Bruno, Pablo – Tiento de Segundo tono por gesolreut, sobre la Letanía de la Virgen
- Frescobaldi, Girolamo – Toccata quinta, from *Toccate, libro secundo*
- Marchand, Louis – Grand dialogue, from *Troisième livre d'orgue*

List B

- Alain, Jehan – Variations sur “Lucis Creator” (Leduc or Bärenreiter)
- Boulanger, Nadia – Trois improvisations pour orgue (any TWO)
- Fricke, Peter Racine – Pastorale (Schott)
- Gade, Niels – Drei Tonstücke, op. 22 (No. 1 OR No. 3)
- Karg-Elert – Harmonies du soir, from *Trois impressions*, op. 72
- Leclerc, Gilles – Epilogue (in *Te Deum Laudamus*, vol. 2, RCCO)
- Owolabi, Kola – Dance (available at www.kolaowolabi.com)
- Willan, Healey – Andante, Fugue, and Chorale (Peters)

List C (North German composers of the 17th century)

- Buxtehude, Dieterich – Praeludium in D, BuxWV 139
Praeludium in F, BuxWV 145
Passacaglia in D minor, BuxWV 161
Magnificat primi toni, BuxWV 203
- Tunder, Franz – Herr Gott, dich loben wir
- Weckmann, Matthias – Magnificat secundi toni

2. (100) Tests at the Organ

A preview time of 60 seconds for Sight Reading and Improvisation and 40 seconds for all other tests is permitted. For transposition tests, candidates may play the test once through in the original key prior to the 40 second preview time. Candidates are not permitted to write directly on the examination question sheet.

- a) (25) Play at sight a passage of organ music involving some change of registration.
- b) (20) Play at sight a passage of four-part vocal music written in open score using G and F clefs, which could include some crossing of parts. The pedals are not to be used.
- c) (20) Harmonise a hymn-like melody of six to eight measures in length which could include primary modulation. Use of the pedals is optional.
- d) (15) Transpose at sight a passage of music on two staves in the style of a hymn tune up or down a tone or semitone. Use of the pedals is optional.
- e) (20) Play a short passage of music (with pedals) and continue improvising the same style for twelve to sixteen measures, including at least one modulation to a related key.

3. (100) Hymns

Play an introduction and all stanzas of two hymns as for congregational singing, demonstrating rhythmic control, sensitivity to the text, and effective registration. The candidate is to reharmonise the last stanza of each hymn and to play an interlude or extension of approximately four measures before or after the last stanza. The reharmonisation and the interval or extension may be written out in advance or taken from previously published material; it should contain significant new harmonic material. The candidate should be prepared to play all five hymns listed in the current Associate Examination Hymns leaflet (download from <https://rcco.ca/resources/PDFs/Exams/Requirements/Hymns%20ARCCO%202023-25.pdf>). One hymn will be chosen by the examiners, and the candidate will choose one of the remaining four hymns

WRITTEN SECTION (2 papers)

NOTE: Only G and F clefs are required for the Associateship diploma, with the exception of the analysis question (No. 5, Paper II) which may include C clefs, together with a knowledge of traditional transposing instruments.

Paper I (3 hours allowed – 100 Marks)

1. **(40)** Harmonise a given chorale melody for four voices in the style of J. S. Bach, using open score with G and F clefs.
2. **(30)** Complete a passage of two-part vocal counterpoint in 16th-century style. One part will be given in full. Knowledge of word underlay is expected.
3. **(30)** Answer questions regarding the organ, its construction and history. Questions may address the following topics:
 - construction of flue and reed pipes
 - different systems of key and stop action
 - systems of registration aids (*e.g.*, pistons, ventils, Rollschweller)
 - important historical styles of organ building (*e.g.*, North German Baroque, French symphonic, American Classic)
 - famous individual organ builders (*e.g.*, Gottfried Silbermann, E. M. Skinner)

Paper II (3 hours allowed – 100 Marks)

4. **(30)** Complete a passage of 18th-century counterpoint in three parts, of which the opening and one outer part will be given.
5. **(40)** Examine a complete composition or extract therefrom, and answer questions concerning its harmonic and contrapuntal features, form, scoring, purpose, etc., suggesting a possible composer and/or date of composition. The example will be taken from a work for chorus and orchestra written between the years 1750 and 1900.
6. **(30)** Answer (in approximately 500 words) a question on North German organ music in the mid-to-late seventeenth century.

EAR TESTS SECTION (Pass or fail)

Ear tests will be given immediately prior to one of the Written sections of the examination. Ear tests do not have marks allotted but are an independent section which must be passed.

1. Write from dictation a passage of not more than eight four-part chords. The candidate may write either (i) all four voice parts, or (ii) outer voices only plus chord symbols. The passage will be in a major or minor key and could include any diatonic or seventh chord together with the secondary dominant and diminished seventh chords of IV or V only; all chords could be in any inversion as well as root position. The key will be stated, the tonic chord sounded, and the speed of the pulse indicated. The passage will be played four times.
2. Write from dictation a melody in simple time not exceeding four measures. The candidate should show the rhythmic structure of the melody by including the time signature and appropriate bar lines. The key will be stated, tonic chord sounded, and the speed of the pulse indicated; the passage will be played four times.

For the complete Regulations, please refer to <http://www.rcco.ca/exam-regulations>.
To apply online, go to <https://rcco.ca/Online-Exam-Registration>