



*Victoria College Examinations*

*vcmexams.com*

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# BANDMASTERSHIP





# Victoria College of Music and Drama, London Ltd

Founded 1890

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## Governing Council:

### Principal

Dr. Martin Ellerby HonDLitt DMA HonVCM FVCM GLCM LMusLCM FTCL FRSA

### Chief Executive

Robin Wood HonVCM FVCM FCV FinstSMM ALAM FRSA

### Chief Examiner

Claire C. Pashley MA BA(Hons) PGCE HonVCM FVCM LTCL ALCM(TD) FRSA  
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### Qualifications Manager and Head of of Music

Stewart L. Thompson BA(Hons) CT,FVCM FMCM FSCO FIGQC FCollT MNCMSoc ACIEA

### Head of Speech & Drama

Stuart Morrison MA HonVCM FVCM(TD)(Hons) PGCE ALAM ALCM(TD) LVCME(Hons) FIFL FRSA

### Curriculum Specialist

Dr June Fileti PhD MA(Mus)(Open), MEd BA(Hons) CT,FVCM, LMusEdASMC(Hons)

# Bandmastership Syllabus

Member of



***All submissions must contain a short programme note explaining how the candidate approached the work.***

***All submitted works must demonstrate a level of craftsmanship and structural concepts appropriate to the level of examination, and be declared and witnessed as candidates' own unaided work.***

***Arrangements must be submitted together with a copy of the original score, at the same time as the entry form and fee.***

***Entries may be submitted by Email in Sibelius format to [entries@vcexam.com](mailto:entries@vcexam.com), or sent in hard copy on unbound A4 pages to Victoria College Examinations, 71 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AY. Submissions are not returnable. Candidates should retain their own copies.***

## **ABOUT THE VCM**

Victoria College of Music and Drama, London Ltd. is an independent body providing examinations in Music, Speech, and Drama subjects. It has held examination sessions throughout the British Isles and certain overseas countries since it was founded in 1890. It no longer operates a full-time teaching institution. The VCM is a corporate member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, Worshipful Company of Musicians, the Music Education Council, the Association of Teachers of Singing, the European Piano Teachers Association, the European Recorder Teachers Association, the Society of Recorder Players, the European String Teachers Association, the Society of Teachers of Speech & Drama, the National Association of Music Educators, the Association of British Choral Directors, the Schools Music Association of Great Britain and is an institutional member of the College of Teachers and abides by its code of practice.

Further details about Victoria College can be found on our website:

**[www.Vcmexams.com](http://www.Vcmexams.com)**

## **COMPARISONS WITH OTHER EXAMINATION BODIES**

The Grades I to VIII in this syllabus are intended to compare in general terms on a level for level basis with Grades 1 to 8 of most other examination bodies. VCM Theory examinations contain some more searching questions than those of some other boards.

## **EXAMINERS**

Composition entries are examined directly or under the direct supervision of the Principal, Dr Martin Ellerby. Dr Ellerby is himself a composer of international standing. Further information about him can be found at [www.martinellerby.com](http://www.martinellerby.com)

## **REGULATIONS**

All entries are accepted on the conditions laid down in the General Regulations, a copy of which is available on the College Website at [www.vcmexams.com](http://www.vcmexams.com). Hard copies are available free of charge on request.

## **PASS MARKS**

The pass mark for Grades I-VIII is 65%. To pass with Merit, 80%; with Distinction, 90%. Merit is shown as Honours in Ireland..

The pass mark for Medal examinations is 75%. The result of medal examinations is either "Award" or "No award". The pass mark for Diploma examinations is 75%. To pass with Honours, 85%.

# **BANDMASTERSHIP**

## **BRONZE MEDAL IN BANDMASTERSHIP**

To submit an arrangement for small orchestra or Brass/Military Band, or strings alone, of any movement from a suite by Bach or Handel, or a short piece by a Romantic or modern composer. The piece for arrangement must be approved by the College in advance and must be for at least three different instruments.

## **SILVER MEDAL IN BANDMASTERSHIP**

To submit an arrangement for small orchestra or Brass/Military Band (which must contain at least four different instruments) of the Minuet and Trio of any Piano Sonata by Beethoven, Mozart or Haydn, or of any one of the preludes by Debussy.

## **GOLD MEDAL IN BANDMASTERSHIP**

To submit either an arrangement for full orchestra or Brass/Military Band of the first movement of a Beethoven Piano Sonata, or of any Organ Sonata by Mendelssohn or Elgar, or a movement from a major keyboard work by a modern composer. The piece for arrangement must be approved by the College in advance.

**ALL SUBMITTED ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE DECLARED AND WITNESSED AS THE  
CANDIDATE'S OWN UNAIDED WORK.**