



RSL CLASSICAL VIOLIN

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the RSL Classical Violin syllabus?

Our Violin syllabus sits alongside our Classical Piano syllabus within our RSL Classical series. It covers instrumental grade exams from Debut – Grade 8 and supports learners in developing the skills, knowledge and understanding required to be a musician performing in the 21st-century music industry.

2. What repertoire is covered?

Across the graded syllabus, students will find 10 specially selected and arranged repertoire from male and female composers from a range of cultural backgrounds. Typically, two of the pieces are from the Pop tradition and have full band backing tracks. Eight pieces are from the Western Classical tradition and the world of contemporary classical music, including Classical Crossover. The repertoire is both taken from pieces originally composed for the violin alongside violin arrangements of well-known tracks.

3. What about wider repertoire?

We like to think that there is a really engaging range of pieces in our books. But, thanks to our Free Choice Piece option, you can choose up to three pieces from anywhere else to prepare and submit instead. This includes pieces of music from other exam boards. Just make sure you use the Free Choice Piece criteria to check it's at the appropriate level.

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4. What do candidates need to prepare for their exam?

For the **Performance Certificate**, learners can prepare five pieces and perform those for the exam.

For the **Graded Music Exam**, learners also prepare Technical Exercises and practice for the Unseen Tests

5. What are the Technical Exercises and Unseen Tests?

The Technical Exercises require learners to prepare scales, arpeggios and Technical Studies. The Technical Studies are specially commissioned pieces of music covering three distinct genres and designed to introduce increasingly challenging tonalities and instrumental techniques associated with the genre in question.

The Unseen Tests give students the choice of Sight-Reading or Interpretation and Improvisation; Melodic Recall Aural Tests; and General Musicianship Questions.

6. Does the Classical Syllabus use Backing Tracks or do I need an Accompanist?

The RSL Classical Violin syllabus can be performed **with backing tracks or with an accompanist**. Each graded book comes with full professionally-recorded exemplar audio, backing tracks and piano accompaniment providing you and your teacher with full flexibility for lessons, practice and the exam.

7. How do I access the repertoire and exam materials?

As with all RSL graded exam materials, everything you need is contained within one book. You can get the books from our publishers, Hal Leonard, in **hard copy** from www.musicroom.com. You can also get hold of the books in **digital format** direct from our online shop. These books also come with Replay, our interactive sheet music player which is a highly effective rehearsal tool. RSL Classical Violin will also be accessible through our **Learning Platform App** which is free for teachers via a paid subscription for students. All formats can be used in the exam.

8. How do I take my exam?

Learners can enter for and take their RSL Classical Violin exam using exactly the same formats as all of our other graded music exams **at a Public Exam Centre, through a Private Exam Visit, Live-Streamed Exam, or Recorded Video Submission**. Please see our [website](http://www.rslawards.com) for more details

9. What feedback do I get on my exam?

Candidates will receive a digital marksheet shortly after taking their exam, we aim to provide a printed certificate within eight weeks of their scheduled exam date.

10. When do exams run?

Within the UK and Republic of Ireland, a live-streamed exam, or private day of live exams can be organised at any time throughout the year as long as the venue meets certain

criteria. Candidates can also visit a public exam centre at set times throughout the year, organised into Spring, Summer and Winter sessions. Candidates can also submit their Video Exam at any time. Further details can be found [here](#).

Outside the UK, exams are organised into 'tours' which take place at different times throughout the year. For more information, please contact your local Rockscool representative.

11. Can Classical candidates take their exam with Rockscool candidates?

Yes. We have a team of highly experienced examiners who are able to assess both RSL Classical and Rockscool candidates and our exams team can co-ordinate exam days to ensure everything runs smoothly.

12. Do I need to start at Debut and work my way up or can I start at any level?

There are no requirements to work through each grade in turn. We recommend that you look at the benchmarking criteria and the repertoire for each grade to identify which level you should start at.

13. I've already done Grade 4 Violin with another exam board, can I move straight across to Grade 5 RSL Classical Violin or do I need to start again?

Our graded exams are benchmarked at set levels so that the learning you have done with another board should help you to transfer across to RSL Classical Violin relatively easily. You can therefore transfer across to RSL Classical Violin at any level; you just need to check the benchmarking criteria and repertoire lists to select pieces at the right level for you.

14. Do I need to have grade 5 theory to take an exam at Grade 6 – 8?

No. While theory grades are helpful, we do not require you to have passed a grade 5 theory exam in order to access and enter our higher grades.

15. How much do the exams cost?

Full information about our exam fees can be found [here](#). Candidates can usually expect to receive the certificate and marksheet within three weeks of taking the exam.

16. Do the exams carry UCAS points?

Yes. The RSL Classical Violin exams are recognised by OfQual and carry 8 – 35 UCAS points from Grades 6 – 8. More information can be found [here](#).

17. Where can I find out more information?

Our dedicated **Classical Violin pages** are regularly updated with new information and guidance. For further information and to discuss your requirements in more detail, contact business@rslawards.com