



✓ *Victoria College Examinations*  
*vcmexams.com*

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# UKULELE



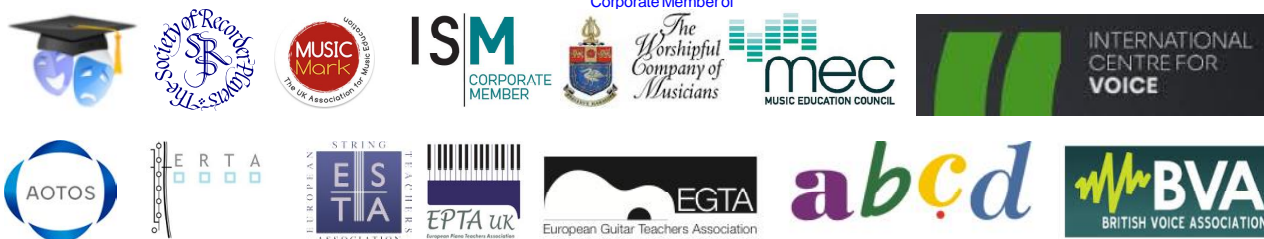


# Victoria College of Music and Drama, London

Founded 1890

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# Ukulele Syllabus



Victoria College Examinations is an institutional member of the College of Teachers ([www.collegeofteachers.ac.uk](http://www.collegeofteachers.ac.uk)) and abides by its code of practice.

## 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. Further details about Victoria College can be found on our website: [www. Vcmexams.com](http://www.Vcmexams.com) and you can follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

## PASS MARKS

Introductory Grades & Grades 1 to 8 65% with Merit, 80%; with Distinction 90% Merit is shown as %Honours+in Ireland  
Medal examinations, 75% Diplomas, 75% (85% with Honours)

## CHANGES TO SYLLABUS

VCM examination requirements do not alter annually, the current syllabus is that listed on our website. Any changes to the syllabus are announced well in advance on the College website, on Facebook and Twitter.

## COMPARISONS WITH OTHER EXAMINATION BODIES

VCM Grades 1 to 8 are intended to compare on a level for level basis with the grades 1 to 8 of other similarly recognised examination boards. In addition to Grades 1 to 8, VCM examinations are available at several introductory levels prior to Grade 1 as a means of encouraging beginners, or students with special needs. Medal and Diploma examinations are also available in all subjects. Candidates at all levels receive a written report and, if successful, a certificate or diploma.

## WHAT THE EXAMINERS ARE LOOKING FOR

Examiners are looking for a combination of skill, knowledge and understanding. Questions are asked in a manner which assesses the candidate's depth of understanding, not merely the ability to repeat definitions. Ingenuity, variety, musicianship, and a sense of style are rewarded, as well as technical skill and musical accuracy.

## EXAMINER TRAINING

All examiners are professionally trained in a number of skills not simply the subject matter. Feedback from centres is gathered routinely as is feedback from examiners about centres; and issues arising are acted upon. For purposes of training and moderating of marking, there will, on occasions, be a second examiner or College representative present in examinations.

**OWN COMPOSITIONS** Candidates for Grades 1 to 8 may perform their own compositions in lieu of Musicianship Tests. Further guidance is set out in *Crazy Composing* available from [www.vcmpublications.co.uk](http://www.vcmpublications.co.uk)

## REGULATIONS

All entries are accepted on the conditions laid down in *General Regulations and Information*, a copy of which is available free of charge. It is also on our website: [www.vcmexams.com](http://www.vcmexams.com)

## ENTRY FORMS

All *grades* and *medal* examinations can be entered on white entry forms with no more than ten candidates on a page. Please use the code %UK+ in the column headed %subject+and the letter(s) or numbers in the %grade no.+column.

## QUESTIONS

Questions are based principally on the music performed; but in addition examiners are at liberty to ask questions on notes, rests, musical terms and signs, key and time-signatures, according to the Grade. Also specifically on minor keys; perfect, major, and minor intervals (Grade 3 upwards).

## SIGHT READING

Sight Reading tests are included from Preparatory level upwards. The relative standard will be that of approximately two grades below the grade being taken. Examiners may discuss the Sight Reading Test with candidates as part of the Questions. Specimen Sight Reading Tests are available to purchase from [www.vcmpublications.co.uk](http://www.vcmpublications.co.uk)

## SET PIECES

Candidates are required to prepare the specified number of pieces in all examinations. Examiners may stop the candidate at any point or request repeats etc. to be omitted.

**London Music Press (LMP)** publications are available on-line post free from [www.vcmpublications.co.uk](http://www.vcmpublications.co.uk)

They can also be ordered by post: an order form is available on request.

Some of the pieces set in the syllabus include options that are published by commercial publishers. These may be obtained on-line at sites such as [www.musicroom.com](http://www.musicroom.com) or in most good music shops.

Second hand and out of print music can be purchased on [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) or [www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk). Certain out of copyright pieces may be obtained free of charge from [www.implsp.org](http://www.implsp.org)

Demonstrations of many set works may be found on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) but please be aware that the quality of performance is variable.

### **MEDAL EXAMINATIONS**

Successful candidates at medal examinations receive a certificate and a medal order form. Prices of medals are shown on the medal order form. Medals are supplied in boxes and are engraved with the candidate's name, subject of examination and the year. Medal awards do not entitle holders to put letters after their names.

### **MEDLEYS & OWN CHOICES**

Where examination requirements include medleys or own choices, a second copy of the score must be provided for the examiner. At all levels, the examiners may penalise an option clearly chosen for its comparative ease.

### **ESSAYS, FOLIOS, ETC.**

Where dissertations are required, these must be submitted **with the entry form**.

Separate or late submission is not permitted. Dissertations should be on plain white A4 paper, legibly written, typed or word processed. Do not bind the pages as they need to be scanned through a sheet feeder. All dissertations should contain a bibliography and contents page. For more guidance see *Essay Writing for the Victoria College Teaching Diplomas* published by LMP.

### **PHOTOCOPIES**

All VCM and LMP publications are copyright. Photocopying of LMP publications is not permissible and **candidates using unauthorised photocopies at examinations will be disqualified**. It is acceptable, however, to use a photocopy for the second copy when the syllabus requires one to be handed to the examiner, provided the original is also brought to the examination. It is also acceptable to use photocopies of parts of long pieces to avoid awkward page turns, again provided the original is also brought to the examination.

### **EXEMPTION FROM QUESTIONS AT PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS**

Candidates who have passed certain VCM Theoretical Examinations are entitled to claim full marks for questions at Practical Examinations as follows:

VCM Grade 1 Theory exempts up to and including Preliminary Practical

VCM Grade 1A Theory exempts up to and including Grade 1 Practical

VCM Grade 2 Theory exempts up to and including Grade 3 and JBM Practical

VCM Grade 3 Theory exempts up to and including Grade 5 and JSM Practical

VCM Grade 4 Theory exempts up to and including Grade 7 and SM Practical

*In all such cases the theory result or certificate must be produced for the Examiner at the beginning of the practical examination. Examiners do not take it amiss if reminded not to ask questions if they have been shown a qualifying Theory pass.*

### **MEMORY**

Performing from memory is not compulsory at any level. However, it is encouraged and will be rewarded.

**At all grades it is possible to substitute one piece with a song (to be played and sung by the candidate) chosen from the Self-Accompanied Singing syllabus. Grades A-D are published by LMP in a special Self-Accompanied Singing Ukulele version.**

### **EXAM SHEETS**

*Exam sheets entitled Uniquele for each Grade are published by London Music Press (LMP) the College's own in-house publisher.*

*They contain Scales, Exercises and Pieces listed in the syllabus other than those shown under the names of other publishers*

### **CRAZY COMPOSING**

*Crazy Composing is a step by step guide for teachers and pupils wishing to perform an Own Composition in lieu of Musicianship Tests.*

### **SPECIMEN MUSICIANSHIP TESTS**

*Specimen musicianship tests are available showing the type of tests examiners will set.*

### **SPECIMEN SIGHT READING**

*Specimen Sight Reading tests are available showing the type of tests examiners will set.*

### **PAST THEORY PAPERS**

*Sets of the last six available past Theory exam papers are available for each grade.*

For Tutorial Videos of arrangements and original compositions for fingerstyle Ukulele players, with free Music&Tab available through [colinrtribe@btinternet.com](mailto:colinrtribe@btinternet.com).

Now also available are DVD tutorials on how to play the arrangements with in depth analysis of what both hands do and some music theory as well! See the following site:

**<http://www.youtube.com/user/colinrtribe>**



## ***Uniquelele***

***a series of Unique Ukulele publications for  
this syllabus has been  
specially published by***

### **London Music Press *(LMP)***

52 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4LR  
*the College's own in-house publisher.*

*LMP exists to provide an inexpensive method for candidates to obtain set pieces for  
examinations at economical prices  
All orders are despatched post free worldwide  
Payment in Sterling or Euro with order.*

*All LMP publications are guaranteed to remain available in print for the duration of the  
syllabus*

**LMP publications can be purchased on-line at  
[www.vcmpublications.co.uk](http://www.vcmpublications.co.uk)**

# **Ukulele Syllabus**

*This syllabus is designed to offer an exam to Ukulele players who wanted to develop melodic skills in addition to those of accompanying. To overcome the problem of the lack of music published for the Ukulele as a melody instrument I have developed new material on which this exam course is based and it is now available from VCM.*

*As a musical instrument the Ukulele is still something of a novelty item. Even in most music shops it is difficult to find a correctly tuned instrument (even though the brightly coloured ones do look good on the shelves) or a member of staff who understands it how to tune it. Sibelius, the music notation software, had a version in which the strings were upside down. Even Ukulele players do themselves no favours when they object to references to George Formby, even though he did play the Uke before going on to its banjo based cousin and he is the player most fondly and frequently thought of by the general public.*

*But on the positive side, the joy that the Ukulele is bringing to children (through wider opportunities teaching in primary schools) and adults up and down the country is on the increase and I hope this will add to that enjoyment as well as raising the status of the instrument. Playing techniques are as varied as the players themselves and although I have given advice in the notes to the pieces, do experiment for yourself and watch other players for ideas, and hopefully viewing Jake Shimabukuro on "Youtube" play "My Guitar Gently Weeps" will inspire rather than frighten you.*

*Tablature is the simplest way to show where the notes are on the instrument, and by combining it with standard notation, a fairly common practice for modern guitarists, you get the mixed system which I think is as clear and complete a guide to the music as is possible. All the music is arranged for the more common types of Ukulele (Soprano, Concert and Tenor) using GCEA tuning shown in the Tutorial*

**Colin R. Tribe**

## A short Ukulele tutorial

## Ukulele History

In 1879, the Portuguese master craftsman and instrument maker Manuel Nunes arrived in the Hawaiian Islands with Joao Fernandes and Augustine Dias. They were immigrants who came to work in the sugar cane fields. Together they invented and developed the ukulele using the four string *braguinha* from Madeira as their model and the locals called the instrument the Ukulele, which roughly translates as *jumping Flea*.

It was around 1915 that the ukulele's popularity migrated to the mainland and a Hawaiian music craze started in San Francisco. The first real star of the instrument in the US was Cliff Edwards. In 1917 in Chicago he took a job as a singer in the Arsonia Café going to tables and singing and playing the ukulele for tips. It was here that he started using the stage name *Ukulele Ike*. The pianist at the club wrote a song called *La Da*. Cliff became a sensation singing the song and he and Joe Frisco formed a successful vaudeville act. By the 20s, mainland manufacturers such as Gibson, Harmony, Regal, National, Dobro and Martin were mass-producing ukuleles by the thousands. Martin produced their first uke in 1916 based on the Nunes design.

In the 40s and 50s George Formby and the American Arthur Godfrey were the big stars whilst players like Roy Smeck and Eddie Karnaue were the virtuosi. The 60s had Tiny Tim as the novelty artiste and Hollywood films keep up a steady stream of ukulele appearances. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century *YouTube* has spread the genius of Jake Shimabukuro and a few books with melody transcriptions are now available.

The notes on the frets up to the 12<sup>th</sup>, after which it starts again an Octave higher

The image displays four musical staves, each representing a string of a ukulele. Each staff includes a treble clef, a key signature, and a tablature line below. The strings are labeled as follows:

- String 1-A:** Notes: A, A#, B, C, C#, D, D#, E, F, F#, G, G#. Tablature: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.
- String 2-E:** Notes: E, E#, F#, G, G#, A, A#, B, C, C#, D, D#. Tablature: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.
- String 3 - middle C:** Notes: C, C#, D, Eb, E, F, F#, G, G#, A, Bb, B. Tablature: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.
- String 4 - middle G:** Notes: G, G#, A, Bb, B, C, C#, D, Eb, E, F, F#. Tablature: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.



# Chord families of common Keys

Major I,IV,V7,VI (minor) with easy chord shapes

C F G7 Ami G C D7 Emi D G A7 Bmi A D E7 F#mi

TAB diagrams for Major I, IV, V7, VI (minor) chords in C major.

E A B7 C#mi F Bb C7 Dmi Bb Eb F7 Gmi Eb Ab Bb7 Cmi

TAB diagrams for Major I, IV, V7, VI (minor) chords in E major.

Minor I,III,IV,VI,V7 with more difficult chord shapes.

Ami C Dmi E7 Emi G Ami B7 Bmi D Emi F#7 F#mi A Bmi C#7

TAB diagrams for Minor I, III, IV, VI, V7 chords in C major.

Dmi F Gmi A7 Gmi Bb Cmi D7 Cmi Eb Fmi G7 Fmi Ab Bbmi C7

TAB diagrams for Minor I, III, IV, VI, V7 chords in D minor.

A circle of 4ths or 5ths, depending on which way you go!

C7 F7 Bb7 Eb7 Ab7 Db7 Gb7/F#7 B7 E7 A7 D7 G7

TAB diagrams for a circle of 4ths or 5ths chords in C major.

# Introductory Examinations

## First Steps in Ukulele Playing

### Exercises (20 Marks)

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

*Ukulele Introductory Exams London Music Press*

To play First Steps Exercises 1 and 2.

### Scalework (10 marks)

*Ukulele Introductory Exams London Music Press*

Scale, Chord and Arpeggio of C major, one octave

### Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any two of the following pieces:

*Ukulele Introductory Exams London Music Press*

Dancing Pawns

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Uke

*English Folk Tunes for Ukulele Schott ED13569*

Morning has Broken (*Melody only*)

What Shall We Do with the Drunken Sailor (*Melody only*)

When the Boat Comes In (*Melody only*)

### Questions (10 marks)

## Preliminary Ukulele Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

### Exercises (20 Marks)

*Ukulele Introductory Exams London Music Press*

To play Preliminary Exercises 1 and 2.

### Scalework (10 marks)

*Ukulele Introductory Exams London Music Press*

Scales, Chord and Arpeggios of C major and D major, one octave.

### Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any two of the following pieces:

*Ukulele Introductory Exams London Music Press*

On top of Old Smoky

Aunt Nancy

*English Folk Tunes for Ukulele Schott ED13569*

Morning has Broken (*Full version*)

What Shall We Do with the Drunken Sailor (*Full version*)

When the Boat Comes In (*Full version*)

### Questions (10 marks)

# Introductory Examinations

## Preparatory Ukulele Playing

### Exercises (20 Marks)

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

*Ukulele Introductory Exams London Music Press*

To play Preparatory Exercises 1 and 2.

### Scalework (10 marks)

*Ukulele Introductory Exams London Music Press*

Scales, Chord and Arpeggios of D major and D minor, one octave.

### Solo Pieces (50 marks)

To play any two of the following pieces:

*Ukulele Introductory Exams London Music Press*

Little Brown Jug

John Brown's Body

*From Lute to Uke Hal Leonard*

Bear Dance

*English Folk Tunes for Ukulele Schott ED13569*

Botany Bay

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

### Questions (10 marks)

### Sight Reading (10 Marks)

## Advanced Preparatory Ukulele

### Exercises (20 Marks)

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

*Ukulele Introductory Exams London Music Press*

To play Advanced Preparatory Exercises 1 and 2.

### Scalework (10 marks)

*Ukulele Introductory Exams London Music Press*

Scales, Chord and Arpeggios of C major and C harmonic minor, one octave.

### Solo Pieces (50 marks)

To play any two of the following pieces:

*Ukulele Introductory Exams London Music Press*

Daisy, Daisy

The Seamaster Strum

*From Lute to Uke Hal Leonard*

Bear Dance Schiarazula Marazula

*English Folk Tunes for Ukulele Schott ED13569*

O No John

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

### Questions (10 marks)

### Sight Reading (10 Marks)

# Grade 1 Ukulele Playing

## Solo Pieces (60 marks)

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

To play any three pieces, **one** from each list

### List A

*Ukulele Grades 1-3 London Music Press*

Silent Night

*From Lute to Uke Hal Leonard*

Orlando Sleepeth

Mr Dowland's Midnight

Tarelton's Resurrection

### List B

*English Folk Songs for Ukulele Schotts Ed. 13569*

Blow The Man Down

Over The Hills and Far Away

Spanish Ladies

The Foggy, Foggy Dew

*Ukulele Grades 1-3 London Music Press*

Auld Lang Syne

Waltzing Matilda

### List C

*Ukulele Grades 1-3 London Music Press*

Rockin' On

Strum Along with Me

An own choice piece of comparable standard chosen from the last 25 years.

A piece as set for the Self-Accompanied Singing Syllabus Grade 1.

## Scalework (10 marks)

*Ukulele Grades 1-3 London Music Press*

The scales, chords and arpeggios of F major and G major

## Questions (10 marks)

### Sight Reading (10 marks)

**EITHER of the following two options a) or b) (10 marks)**

a) Musicianship Tests

Test 1: To clap a rhythm in 2/4 time. 2 bars in length, played twice by the examiner.

Test 2: To identify any note in the arpeggio C/E/G/C', Middle C being given

Test 3: To echo a five-note phrase played twice by the examiner.

b) Own composition

Perform an own composition of about 8 bars in the key of C major. It should be balanced as an opening 4-bar phrase which forms a question and a 4-bar phrase that forms an answer.

# Grade 2 Ukulele Playing

## Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play three pieces, **one** from each list:

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

### List A

*Uniquelele Grades 1-3 London Music Press*

Au Clair de la Lune

Greensleeves

*From Lute to Uke Hal Leonard*

Pastime with Good Company

Pavana

Les Buffons

Allemande

La Volta

### List B

*English Folk Songs for Ukulele Schotts Ed. 13569*

Blaydon Races

Dashing Away With A Smoothing Iron

English Country Garden

Married To A Mermaid

Raggle-Taggle Gypsy

Stewball

Greensleeves

*Uniquelele Grades 1-3 London Music Press*

Those Were The Days

### List C

*Uniquelele Grades 1-3 London Music Press*

First Love

12 to the bar

An own choice piece of comparable standard chosen from the last 25 years.

A piece as set for the Self-Accompanied Singing Syllabus Grade 2.

### Scalework (10 marks)

*London Music Press*

The scales, chords and arpeggios of A and E major, A and E harmonic minor

### Questions (10 marks)

#### Sight Reading (10 marks)

#### EITHER of the following two options a) or b) (10 marks)

##### a) Musicianship Tests

Test 4: To clap a rhythm in 2/4 time. 2 bars in length, played twice by the examiner.

Test 5: To identify any note C to G, played from C

Test 6: To hum, play or sing a group of 5 or 6 notes played twice by the examiner, and to complete the phrase by adding **one** note

##### b) Own composition

Perform an own composition of about 16 bars in the key of C, G or F major. It should be balanced as an opening 4-bar phrase which forms a **question**+, a 4-bar phrase that forms an **answer**+, a repeat of the opening 4-bar phrase, and a second **answering**+phrase

# Grade 3 Ukulele Playing

## Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play three pieces, **one** from each list:

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

### List A

*Ukulele Grades 1-3 London Music Press*

Prelude in G

Regency Quadrille

*From Lute to Uke Hal Leonard*

Der Haupff Auff

Welscher Tanz

### List B

*English Folk Songs for Ukulele Schotts Ed. 13569*

Hearts of Oak

I Gave My Love A Cherry

Newcastle

Sam Hall

The British Grenadiers

The Lincolnshire Poacher

*Ukulele Grades 1-3 London Music Press*

Yellow Bird

The Policeman's Lot

### List C

*Ukulele Grades 1-3 London Music Press*

Saltash Blues

An own choice piece of comparable standard chosen from the last 25 years.

A piece as set for the Self-Accompanied Singing Syllabus Grade 3.

## Scalework (10 marks)

*London Music Press*

The scales, chords and arpeggios of A flat and E flat major, G and F harmonic minor

## Questions (10 marks)

## Sight Reading (10 marks)

**EITHER of the following two options a) or b) (10 marks)**

a) Musicianship Tests

Test 7: To clap a rhythm in 2/4 or 3/4 time, 2 bars, played twice by the examiner and identify the time as 2/4 or 3/4

Test 8: To identify any note(s) in the chords of C, G, or F, played from the root note.

Test 9: To hum, sing or whistle a group of 5 or 6 notes played twice by the examiner, and then to complete the phrase by adding two or three notes.

b) Own composition

Perform an own composition in simple binary form in the key of C, G, F, D or B flat major.

# Grade 4 Ukulele Playing

## Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play three pieces, **one** from each list:

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

### List A

*From Lute to Uke* **Hal Leonard**

Round Battle Galliard

Kemp's Jig

*Ukulelele Grades 4-5* **London Music Press**

In The Hall Of The Mountain King

Gran Vals

### List B

*English Folk Songs for Ukulele* **Schotts Ed. 13569**

As I Walked Forth

Johnny Todd

Scarborough Fair

The Girl I Left Behind Me

The Lass of Richmond Hill

Young Sailor Cut Down In His Prime

*Ukulelele Grades 4-5* **London Music Press**

Irish Washerwoman

### List C

*Ukulelele Grades 4-5* **London Music Press**

Great Western Railway Waltz

An own choice of comparable standard chosen from the last 25 years.

A piece as set for the Self-Accompanied Singing Syllabus Grade 4.

## Scalework (10 marks)

*Ukulelele Grades 4-5* **London Music Press**

The scales, chords and arpeggios of F sharp major, F sharp harmonic minor; plus the chords of C, C7, C diminished, and A minor

## Questions (10 marks)

### Sight Reading (10 marks)

**EITHER of the following two options a) or b) (10 marks)**

a) Musicianship Tests

Test 10: To clap a rhythm in 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 time played twice by the examiner, to state the time and then to identify the melody as major or minor.

Test 11: To identify triads as major or minor and then to name the notes in them, the root being named by the examiner.

Test 12: To hum, sing or whistle a group of notes- 2 bars - played by the examiner, and then to complete the melody by adding 4 or 5 notes.

b) Own composition

Perform an own composition in simple binary form in the key of D or B flat major, including a modulation to a related key.

# Grade 5 Ukulele Playing

## Solo Pieces (60 marks)

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

To play three pieces, **one** from each list:

### List A

*From Lute to Uke* **Hal Leonard**

Ballett

The Shoemaker's Wife

Bransle de Champagne

*Ukulele Grades 4-5* **London Music Press**

Morning

### List B

*Ukulele Grades 4-5* **London Music Press**

Dem Dry Bones

*English Folk Songs for Ukulele* **Schotts Ed. 13569**

Amazing Grace

The Keel Row

The Plough Boy

The Sailors Hornpipe (in G or in F)

### List C

*Ukulele Grades 4-5* **London Music Press**

Sonatina in A

Alphabeta

An own choice piece of comparable standard chosen from the last 25 years.

A piece as set for the Self-Accompanied Singing Syllabus Grade 5.

### Scalework (10 marks)

*Ukulele Grades 4-5* **London Music Press**

The scales, chords and arpeggios of D flat and C melodic minor; plus the scales and chord on 1 and 4 of G major and G harmonic minor.

### Questions (10 marks)

### Sight Reading (10 marks)

#### **EITHER of the following two options a) or b) (10 marks)**

##### a) Musicianship Tests

Test 13: To clap a rhythm in 3/4, 4/4 or 6/8 time - 2 bars - played twice by the examiner, and to state the time, and then to say if the melody is in a major or minor key.

Test 14: To identify triads as major, minor, or diminished; and then to name the notes in them, the root note being named by the examiner.

Test 15: To hum, sing or whistle a two bar phrase played twice by the examiner, and then to continue with an answering two bar phrase.

##### b) Own composition

Perform an own composition in simple ternary form in a key of up to and including 3 sharps or 3 flats, including a modulation to a related key.



# Grade 6 Ukulele Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

## Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play three pieces, **one** from each list:

### List A

*Ukulele Grade 6 London Music Press*

Pavane

Romanza

*From Lute to Uke Hal Leonard*

Almayne

A Toy

Cancion del Emperador

### List B

*Ukulele Grade 6 London Music Press*

Canon

*English Folk Songs for Ukulele Schotts Ed. 13569*

Blow The Wind Southerly

### List C

*Ukulele Grade 6 London Music Press*

Misirlou

An own choice piece of comparable standard chosen from the last 25 years.

A piece as set for the Self-Accompanied Singing Syllabus Grade 6

## Scalework (10 marks)

*Ukulele Grade 6 London Music Press*

The scales, chords and arpeggios of B and B flat major; B and B flat melodic minor; plus the chromatic scale from C to G; and Dominant 7th arpeggios in C and F

## Questions (10 marks)

### Sight Reading (10 marks)

#### EITHER of the following two options a) or b) (10 marks)

##### a) Musicianship Tests

Test 16: To clap a rhythm in 4/4, 6/8, or 9/8 time - 2 or 3 bars, played twice by the examiner, to state the time and then to identify whether the phrase is in a major or minor key.

Test 17: To identify any type of triad, and then to name the notes in them, the root note having been named by the examiner.

Test 18: To hum, sing or whistle 3 or 4 bars played twice by the examiner, and then to continue by adding an answering phrase.

Test 19: To identify a cadence as Perfect or Plagal.

##### b) Own composition

Perform an own composition in variation form to the theme of *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* or your own choice of theme. It should have balanced phrases and move to at least two related keys.

# Grade 7 Ukulele Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

## Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play three pieces, **one** from each list:

### List A

*Ukulele Grade 7 London Music Press*

Badinerie

*From Lute to Uke Hal Leonard*

My Lady Hunssdon & Puffe

Melancholy Galliard

### List B

*Ukulele Grade 7 London Music Press*

Zadok the Priest

*English Folk Songs for Ukulele Schotts Ed. 13569*

Early One Morning

### List C

*Ukulele Grade 7 London Music Press*

The Flea Bites Back

An own choice piece of comparable standard chosen from the last 25 years.

A piece as set for the Self-Accompanied Singing Syllabus Grade 7.

## Scalework (10 marks)

*Ukulele Grade 7 London Music Press*

All major scales and harmonic minor scales with sharps in the key signature (except B and B minor)

The chromatic scale on G on one & four strings. Diminished arpeggios (all inversions): C, Eb, Gb & A; C#, E, G & B; D, F, Ab & B.

## Questions (10 marks)

### Sight Reading (10 marks)

#### **EITHER of the following two options a) or b) (10 marks) (10 marks)**

##### a) Musicianship Tests

Test 20: To clap a rhythm in 3/4, 6/8, 9/8 or 5/4 time, for 3 or 4 bars, played twice by the examiner, to identify the time and then to identify whether the phrase is in a major or minor key.

Test 21: To hum, sing or whistle a group of 3 or 4 bars, played twice by the examiner, and then to complete by adding an answering phrase of 3 or 4 bars.

Test 22: To identify triads, played in any position, and then to name the notes in them, the root note being given by the examiner.

Test 23: To identify a cadence as Perfect or Interrupted.

Test 24: To name the notes in any supertonic triad (major keys only), the Tonic chord having been played and named by the examiner..

##### b) Own composition

Perform an own composition in Sonata form. It should have balanced phrases and move to at least two related keys.

# Grade 8 Ukulele Playing

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

## Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play three pieces, **one** from each list:

### List A

*Ukulele Grade 8 London Music Press*

Air From Suite in D

Troika

.....  
•Candidates must pass or have passed VCM Grade IV •  
•Theory of Music - or hold a certificate of exemption •  
•- before the Grade 8 practical certificate is awarded. •  
.....

### List B

*Ukulele Grade 8 London Music Press*

Recuerdos De La Alhambra

*English Folk Songs for Ukulele Schotts Ed. 13569*

The Water Is Wide

### List C

*Ukulele Grade 8 London Music Press*

Che Faro Senza Euridice

*An own choice piece of comparable standard chosen from the last 25 years.*

A piece as set for the Self-Accompanied Singing Syllabus Grade 8.

## Scalework (10 marks)

*Ukulele Grade 8 London Music Press*

All major scales and harmonic minor scales with flat in the key signature (except Bb and Bb minor)

The chromatic scale on A on one & two strings. Augmented arpeggios (all inversions): C, E, & G#;

Db, F & A; D, F#, & Bb

## Questions (10 marks)

### Sight Reading (10 marks)

#### **EITHER of the following two options a) or b) (10 marks)(10 marks)**

##### a) Musicianship Tests

Test 25: To clap a rhythm in 2/2, 6/8, 5/4, or 7/8 time - four bars played twice by the examiner, to identify the time-signature, and to say if the melody is in a major or minor key.

Test 26: To hum, sing or whistle a 4-bar phrase played twice by the examiner, and then continue for 4 further bars with an answering phrase, not necessarily in sequence.

Test 27: To identify triads as major, minor, diminished or augmented, and to name the notes in them, the root note being given by the examiner.

Test 20: To identify a cadence as Perfect or Imperfect.

Test 29: To name the notes in a mediant triad in a major key, and the tonic chords having been played and named by the examiner.

##### b) Own composition

Perform an own composition in Rondo form. It should have balanced phrases and move to at least two related keys.

# Medal Examinations in Ukulele Playing

Medal examinations offer candidates a performance-centred exam outside the constraints of the formal Grade structure. A higher pass mark (75%) is set and the result is either an award or no award. Successful candidates receive a certificate and report as with Grade exams, but also an application form to purchase a medal of good quality metal that can be engraved with the candidate's name, subject and the year. Medal exams do not qualify candidates for letters after their names.

## Junior Bronze Medal

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

### Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any THREE of the pieces listed for Grade 3

### Plus An own choice solo (20 marks)

suitable to the grade and not listed elsewhere in the syllabus

### Questions (10 marks)

### Sight Reading (10 marks)

## Junior Silver Medal

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

### Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any THREE of the pieces listed for Grade 4

### Plus An own choice solo (20 marks)

suitable to the grade and not listed elsewhere in the syllabus

### Questions (10 marks)

### Sight Reading (10 marks)s

## Bronze Medal

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

### Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any THREE of the pieces listed for Grade 5

### Plus An own choice solo (20 marks)

suitable to the grade and not listed elsewhere in the syllabus

### Questions (10 marks)

### Sight Reading (10 marks)

## Silver Medal

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

### Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To play any THREE of the pieces listed for Grade 6

### Plus An own choice solo (20 marks)

suitable to the grade and not listed elsewhere in the syllabus

### Questions (10 marks)

### Sight Reading (10 marks)s

There are no Scales, Arpeggios, Musicianship Tests or Composition requirements at VCM Medal exams

# Gold Medal

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

*Entry for the Gold Medal is restricted to those who have already passed the Silver Medal in Ukulele Playing.*

## Performance (90 marks)

Candidates must present a balanced programme of their own choice of five solos. The programme must show a range of styles. The standard of difficulty should be suitable for this level of examination. The whole performance should take no longer than 20 minutes.

## Introductions

The standard expected is that of an amateur performance at a live local charity show. Candidates should be able to introduce their programmes as to a live audience in an interesting and entertaining manner. Examiners will expect to be treated as an audience and addressed accordingly.

## Department

Examiners will take into account general presentation of the pieces and deportment. Examiners will expect candidates to dress as if they are performing in a formal recital. A confident professional approach is looked for. Credit will be given for effort in presentation, but not for the quality or sophistication of the resources available to the candidate.

## Paperwork

The candidate should present the examiner with a concert programme. It should include:

- " A front cover showing the name of the candidate
- " A list of the pieces performed
- " Copies of the scores of the pieces performed (*photocopies are permitted but will be destroyed after the examination*)
- " A short summary about the pieces performed

## Discussion (10 marks)

The examiner will hold a brief interview with the candidate about the performance, the candidate's preferences and knowledge of the instrument and repertoire.

# Platinum Medal

Show on entry form as

SURNAME	FORENAMES	SUBJECT	GRADE

*Entry for the Platinum Medal is restricted to those who have already passed the Gold Medal in Ukulele Playing.*

## Performance (90 marks)

Candidates must present a balanced programme of their own choice of five pieces

The pieces should include the following:

- " An arrangement of a piece by a European Baroque composer
- " An arrangement of a piece by a British Baroque composer
- " A piece by a Classical Composer
- " An arrangement of a piece by an American composer
- " A piece composed post-1900

## Introductions, Department and Paperwork

The requirements are as for Gold Medal above.

## Discussion (10 marks)

The examiner will hold a brief interview with the candidate about the performance, the candidate's preferences and knowledge of the instrument and repertoire.

# Diplomas in Ukulele Playing

Successful candidates in Diploma examinations receive an A3-sized diploma of a design little changed from 1890, along with the examiner's report and an authorisation to purchase the appropriate academical robes.

All correspondence and payment for academical robes must be addressed directly to the official robemakers:

Knights of Castle Cary, Knights Yard, Castle Cary, BA7 7AW United Kingdom.

## **Robes**

Diploma (DipVCM):

A black gown of bachelors style and rigid black square hat with tassel.

Associate (AVCM, AMusVCM):

A hood of Oxford simple shape in royal blue lined light blue, a black gown of Cambridge bachelor style with ½ inch blue ribbon on the facings and rigid black square hat with tassel.

Licentiate (LVCM, LMusVCM):

A hood of Oxford simple shape in royal blue lined scarlet, a black gown of Cambridge bachelor style with ½ inch of scarlet ribbon on the facings and rigid black square hat with tassel.

Fellowship (FVCM):

A hood of Oxford simple shape in royal blue lined scarlet edged with white binding, a black gown of Cambridge bachelor style with 1 inch of scarlet ribbon on the facings and rigid black square hat with tassel.

## **Diploma in Ukulele Playing DipVCM**

*Entry should be made on pink diploma entry form. This diploma is available to candidates of any age. Successful candidates receive a diploma and are entitled to wear the appropriate academical robes.*

### **PAPERWORK**

Candidates for DipVCM must pass Victoria College of Music Grade V Theory of Music before the Diploma certificate is awarded. Candidates who can produce evidence of having passed GCSE or equivalent in Music may apply for exemption from the Theory requirement.

### **Performance (80 marks)**

To play **Two Solos** drawn from the Associate lists. In the case of a major work only one movement is required.

To play **One Solo** drawn from the Grade 8 List

To Play **One Own Choice** piece of a suitable standard which may be an own composition.

### **Part Two Sight Reading (10 marks)**

Candidates are required to perform and answer questions on an unseen test after a few moments perusal.

### **Discussion (10 marks)**

The examiner will hold a brief interview with the candidate about the performance, the candidate's preferences and knowledge of the instrument and repertoire.

# Associate Diploma in Ukulele Playing AVCM

## PAPERWORK

Candidates for AVCM must pass Victoria College of Music Grade V Theory of Music before the Diploma certificate is awarded. Candidates who can produce evidence of having passed GCSE or equivalent in Music may apply for exemption from the Theory requirement.

### Associate Diploma (AVCM) Syllabus I Performers Diploma

#### Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To perform three items, one from each list:

#### List A

*The Classical Ukulele Hal Leonard*  
(HL.695844)

Tarentella Italiana

*Uniquелеle for Associate London Music Press*

Fur Elise

Gavotte and Rondeau

#### List B

*Uniquелеle for Associate London Music Press*

Adagio

#### List C

*A candidate's own choice appropriate to the diploma.*

*A piece as appropriate for the Self-Accompanied Singing Syllabus at AVCM.*

#### Scalework (20 marks)

As set out in *Uniquелеle for Associate LMP*  
Chromatic scale from G in two different patterns:

a) on one string; b) on two strings

Dominant 7th arpeggios in all sharp keys

#### Discussion (10 marks)

The examiner will hold a brief interview with the candidate about the performance, the candidate's preferences and knowledge of the instrument and repertoire.

#### Sight Reading (10 marks)

### Associate Diploma (A.V.C.M.) Syllabus II Recitalists Diploma

As outlined under Syllabus I above, except that, instead of Scalework, an own choice solo is to be performed in addition.

### Associate Diploma (A.V.C.M.(T.D.)) Syllabus III in Teaching of Ukulele Playing

This is an initial Teaching Diploma for those with some experience of teaching at the lower grades and who intend to study further for teaching qualifications.

Candidates must submit with their entries ONE of the following:

1. A folio (see p. 4) showing work and notes for a 10-week term for one of these categories: **the young beginner; the teenage beginner; the adult beginner**

The folio should include lists of appropriate pieces, studies, books, websites, etc. appended as a bibliography.

2. A 25 minute DVD of them teaching a pupil of Grade 1 to 5 standard. The lesson should show work on at least one piece (approx. 15 minutes) and two other areas of the teacher's choice.

A numerical mark is not awarded for the above but written feedback and an **approved+** or **not approved+** assessment will be given.

#### Performing (40 marks)

One List A and One List B piece from AVCM Syllabus 1

#### Teaching (50 marks)

To perform and demonstrate/discuss the teaching of

ONE piece from Grade 1-3 List C

ONE piece from Grade 4-5 List C

to examination readiness, to explain the difficulties likely to be encountered by the pupil, and to suggest ways of overcoming these problems.

This section will include a Viva Voce discussion with the examiner on aspects of teaching, and any points from the Folio/DVD.

#### Sight Reading (10 marks)

# Licentiate Diploma in Ukulele Playing AVCM

## PAPERWORK

Candidates for LVCM must pass Victoria College of Music Grade VI Theory of Music before the Diploma certificate is awarded. Candidates who can produce evidence of having passed %A+Level or equivalent in Music may apply for exemption from the Theory requirement.

### Licentiate Diploma (LVCM) Syllabus I Performers Diploma

#### Solo Pieces (60 marks)

To perform three items, one from each list:

#### List A

*Ukulele for Licentiate LMP*

Rondo alla Turca

*The Classical Ukulele Hal Leonard*

**(HL.695844)**

J.S. Bach: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

#### List B

*Ukulele for Licentiate LMP*

Capriccio No. 24

Allegro

#### List C

A candidate's own choice appropriate to the diploma.

*A piece as appropriate for the Self-Accompanied Singing Syllabus at LVCM.*

#### Scalework (20 marks)

As set out in *Ukulele for Licentiate LMP*

Chromatic scale from A & G in contrary motion

Dominant 7th arpeggios in all flat keys

#### Discussion (10 marks)

The examiner will hold a brief interview with the candidate about the performance, the candidate's preferences and knowledge of the instrument and repertoire.

#### Sight Reading (10 marks)

### Licentiate Diploma (L.V.C.M.) Syllabus II Recitalists Diploma

As outlined under Syllabus I above, except that, instead of Scalework, an own choice solo is to be performed in addition.

### Licentiate Diploma (L.V.C.M.(T.D.)) Syllabus III in Teaching of Ukulele Playing

This is an intermediate Teaching Diploma for those with experience of teaching at the higher grades and who intend to study further for teaching qualifications..

Candidates must submit with their entries ONE of the following:

1. An essay (see p. 4) of 1500-2000 words on some aspect of Ukulele teaching of their choice.

The essay should include reference to appropriate pieces, studies, books, websites, etc. and a bibliography.

2. A 30 minute DVD of the candidate teaching a pupil of at least Grade 6 standard. The lesson should show work on at least one piece (approx.20 minutes) and two other areas of the teacher's choice.

A numerical mark for the above is not awarded but written feedback and an %approved+ or %not approved+assessment will be given.

#### Performing (40 marks)

One List A and One List B piece from LVCM Syllabus 1

#### Teaching (50 marks)

To perform and demonstrate/discuss the teaching of

ONE piece from Grade 6-7 List C

ONE piece from Grade 8 List C

to examination readiness, to explain the difficulties likely to be encountered by the pupil, and to suggest ways of overcoming these problems.

This section will include a Viva Voce discussion with the examiner on aspects of teaching, and any points from the Folio/DVD.

#### Sight Reading (10 marks)



# Fellowship Diploma in Ukulele Playing

Candidates for Fellowship must be Licentiates of the VCM in Ukulele unless it has been agreed in advance in writing that this requirement can be waived by virtue of equivalent qualifications. **There is no Theory requirement for the Fellowship examination.**

## Fellowship Diploma (FVCM) Syllabus I Performers Diploma

### Performance (90 marks)

Candidates for this Fellowship Diploma are required to prepare and perform a concert recital of FIVE contrasting pieces of different genres and periods. The pieces can contain original material, own compositions, or arrangements of pieces adapted for the instrument.

Candidates should dress and behave as if performing to a large live audience.

The whole performance should not exceed 30 minutes.

Candidates must present to the examiner on the day of the exam a portfolio of the pieces offered at the practical exam which will include a concert programme, copies of the pieces performed and some factual information about the pieces submitted.

### Discussion (10 marks)

The examiner will hold a brief interview with the candidate about the performance, the candidate's preferences and knowledge of the instrument and repertoire.

## Fellowship Diploma (FVCM(TD)) Syllabus II Teachers Diploma

Candidates must submit with their entry a Dissertation or DVD as in the LVCM(TD) Syllabus, except the Dissertation must be 3500-5000 words in length (excluding topics set for AVCM(TD) or material already submitted for LVCM(TD)), the DVD should be about 40 minutes in length, showing about 25 minutes work on a piece of at least DipVCM/AVCM Syllabuses 1 or 2 level, and about 15 minutes on two other aspects of Ukulele Teaching..

Some suggested themes are shown below for guidance, but candidates are expected to consider a theme that reflects their interests and experience:

- É Group teaching
- É Special needs
- É Exam preparation

The essay should include lists of appropriate pieces, studies, books etc appended as a bibliography. The examiner will discuss the dissertation with the candidate at the examination.

### Performing (40 marks)

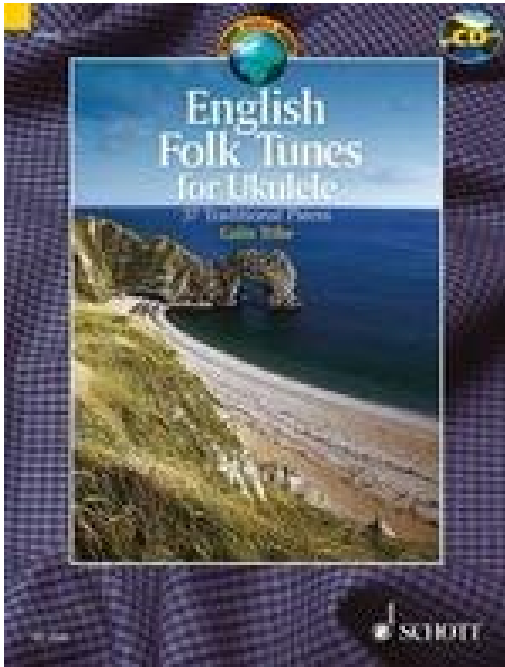
Candidates should prepare and play two pieces which they consider to be good teaching repertoire for the Ukulele: one of Grade 5 or 6 standard; and one of Diploma standard or above. The pieces should be introduced as if to a class of students.

### Teaching (50 marks)

This section will include a Viva Voce discussion with the examiner on the teaching of the pieces presented; also on teaching of the instrument generally, points arising from the Dissertation/DVD.

### Sight Reading (10 marks)

The examiner will discuss with the candidate such aspects of the unseen piece as tempo, phrasing and marks of expression.



The Musical Ukulele, by Colin Tribe: TUTOR Book with 2 CDs

