



Royal Canadian College of Organists

National Office

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REQUIREMENTS FOR CHOIR TRAINING CERTIFICATE (2017-19)

There is no prerequisite for this examination; it is open to all College members. The examination centre is responsible for providing a competent choir (at least two singers per part), and an accompanist. This examination is offered at the same time as the other College examinations. Initially all sections must be taken at the same examination session. Passing this examination does not entitle successful candidates to attach any letters to their names; a Certificate of Proficiency in Choir Training will be awarded at the College's annual Convocation.

PRACTICAL SECTION (40 minutes allowed, followed by 15-minute viva voce - 100 Marks)

Conduct a rehearsal of an anthem, a hymn and a psalm, as indicated below. **The candidate is responsible for planning how to use the allotted time to achieve maximum effectiveness with the choir, and to ensure that all the music is covered within the given rehearsal time.** Marks may be deducted for a poorly organised rehearsal.

- 1. (40) Anthem** Compile a list of fifteen anthems for SATB choir for use in the various seasons of the liturgical year (for example, 3 pieces for Christmas, 2 for Lent, 3 for Easter, 2 for Pentecost, 2 for Thanksgiving, and 3 general anthems). Of the fifteen anthems on the list, the candidate should be prepared to rehearse three (from different seasons) for the exam. The three pieces should be indicated with an asterisk on the list. At least five of the anthems on the list should be unaccompanied. The liturgical cycle of any spiritual tradition may be used, as long as it is clearly identified and correctly followed. The list of fifteen pieces must be submitted at the time of application, along with one original copy of each of the pieces proposed for the examination. One of the three pieces will be selected by the Examinations Committee for use in the examination; the title will be communicated to the candidate at least four weeks before the examination date. The candidate will be responsible for furnishing multiple legal copies of the selected anthem for the examination choir. All music supplied to the Examinations Committee will be returned to the candidate.
- 2. (25) Hymn** Rehearse the choir in the performance of one of the hymns found in the Choir Training Hymn leaflet (http://rcco.ca/uploads/File/Examinations/Hymns_Choir_Training_2017-19.pdf). The hymn will be selected in advance by the candidate.
- 3. (20) Psalm** Select a chant setting of Psalm 24 (Vulgate Psalm 23), and rehearse the choir in the performance of it. Any recognized choral chant system may be used: Anglican chant, Plainchant, Gelineau or any Responsorial system. A metrical version of the Psalm is not acceptable. The candidate should submit a copy of the psalm setting selected at the time of application, for approval by the Examinations Committee.
- 4. (15) Viva Voce** The candidate may be questioned in the following areas: (a) the works used at the examination, (b) rehearsal techniques, and (c) choral technique (voice production, breathing, diction, pitch, balance, etc.).

WRITTEN SECTION (One paper - three hours allowed 100 Marks)

1. **(15) Harmony** Add chord symbols to a given melodic line
2. **(25) Analysis** Analyse the harmony of a passage from the given short anthem, using chord symbols. Comment on the work with reference to its structure and musical features, and to the practical aspects of its rehearsal and performance.
3. **(15 per question)** Answer four out of ten questions (approximately 100 words each) on the following subjects:
 - rudiments of sight-singing
 - voice-training
 - conducting techniques
 - selection of music for church services (including psalms and hymns)
 - recruitment
 - organisation and training of choirs
 - relationship between choir and congregation
 - history of church music
 - use of the organ in service accompaniment
 - congregational singing

EAR TESTS SECTION (Pass or fail)

1. Identify major, minor and perfect intervals within an octave above or below a given note. Eight intervals will be played melodically, all beginning on the same note. The candidate will write down the name of the interval (e.g., major third above, minor sixth below, etc.). The starting note will be sounded and the series of intervals will be played three times.
2. The candidate will be given a paper with a melody line written on it. The melody will then be played, with intentional errors of pitch and/or rhythm. The candidate is required to mark any errors heard, on the examination paper. The line (in its erroneous form) will be played three times.

For the complete Regulations, please refer to <http://www.rcco.ca/examination-information>.

To apply online, go to <http://www.rcco.ca/exam-application-choir-training>.