



# The *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music

*“Shaping Canada’s vast musical landscape”*

The *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music was founded in February 2002. Its founding members were inspired to develop programs of study serving the needs of Canadian music teachers and their students.

Traditional teaching approaches are blended with emerging and newly developed ideas to offer holistic pedagogical tools which will raise the level of musical standards throughout our country.

Our members bring a vast wealth of experience, ethics and skill to the programs they have developed and continue to develop. They are highly recognized in their fields as composers, editors, examiners, workshop clinicians, adjudicators, teachers, pedagogues and concert artists.

The *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music programs are focused on each candidate’s success, as well as the joy of music learning. The examination program is designed to create a positive and comfortable experience while developing musical and life skills. CNCM is also mandated to support, encourage and share Canadian music at all levels of study and experience including students to new and published composers achieved through CNCM publications, performances and other programs.

## **10 reasons *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music stands out as a conservatory of music!**

*Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music:

1. continues to grow and gain momentum at a dynamic pace
2. hosts examinations from coast to coast
3. offers practical piano examinations from beginner to Licentiate levels
4. is the only conservatory in Canada to offer **SIX** stand-alone pedagogy diplomas from Early Childhood Music Educator to Junior and Senior Fellowships
5. provides diverse opportunities for music studies such as:
  - a. personal recitals (full grade or Star Performance) with family and friends in attendance
  - b. workshop examinations
  - c. musicianship examinations
  - d. popular examinations which include performance with electronic accompaniments, as well as prepared lead sheets, transposition, improvisation and performance
  - e. rudiments, harmony and history programs
  - f. coaching classes
6. rewards each successful credit or examination with a certificate
7. is the only conservatory in Canada to require Canadian content
8. allows for ALL repertoire selections to be OWN CHOICE although, ONE work MUST be from CNCM publications
9. provides performance examination formats which may be traditional in nature or developed around a theme
10. is the only conservatory in Canada to work intimately with many Canadian composers by promoting their work through the *Northern Lights* publications, the CNCM Composers & Kids program and Summer Sizzle Keyboard Kamp & Piano Pedagogy Symposium



**Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music** provides a holistic approach to music study blending traditional teaching techniques with innovative, expert-developed methods, encouraging student skill development from performance etiquette to musicianship and performance, as well as theory. CNCM provides teachers and students flexible, engaging and creative programs for all levels of study - from beginner 'user friendly' exams to professional diplomas.

Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music currently offers four separate practical piano examination streams:

1. **Graded Piano Performance**, a unique format, offering candidates and teachers the experience of preparing recital programs shared with an audience of loved ones as selected by the student – families love this opportunity!
2. **Graded Piano Workshop**, a more traditional format, involving a general conclusive discussion with student, teacher and parent
3. **Music for Everyone Programs** for young students to young-at-heart students in two different streams for first year to performance levels:
  - i) *Northern Lights Star Performance* (mini personal recital)
  - ii) *Northern Lights Popular* (performance, accompanying, transposition; lead sheet and improvisation)
4. **Piano Pedagogy**, a teacher-focused program, offering six diplomas ranging from Early Childhood Music Education to Senior Fellowship.

## Benefits of CNCM

4

streams of piano performance examinations



Performance examinations in the form of a personal recital with an audience



Builds confidence through oral speaking, performance etiquette and pride of accomplishment



Repertoire may be chosen from any source, not restricted by a syllabus



Students receive certificates and awards for each grade completed

6

pedagogy diplomas for new and experienced teachers



Builds harmonization, transposition and improvisational skills from Grade 1

Students can prepare a traditional period examination or theme examination of their interest



Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music provides students with the opportunity to set short term goals and enter examination programs even in their first year of study with the *Music for Everyone Programs*. The Music for Everyone Programs are ideal for adult students (all ages and levels), busy students, and students who are looking for opportunity to perform a shorter program as they prepare for more demanding examinations, auditions or graduating from their music studies.



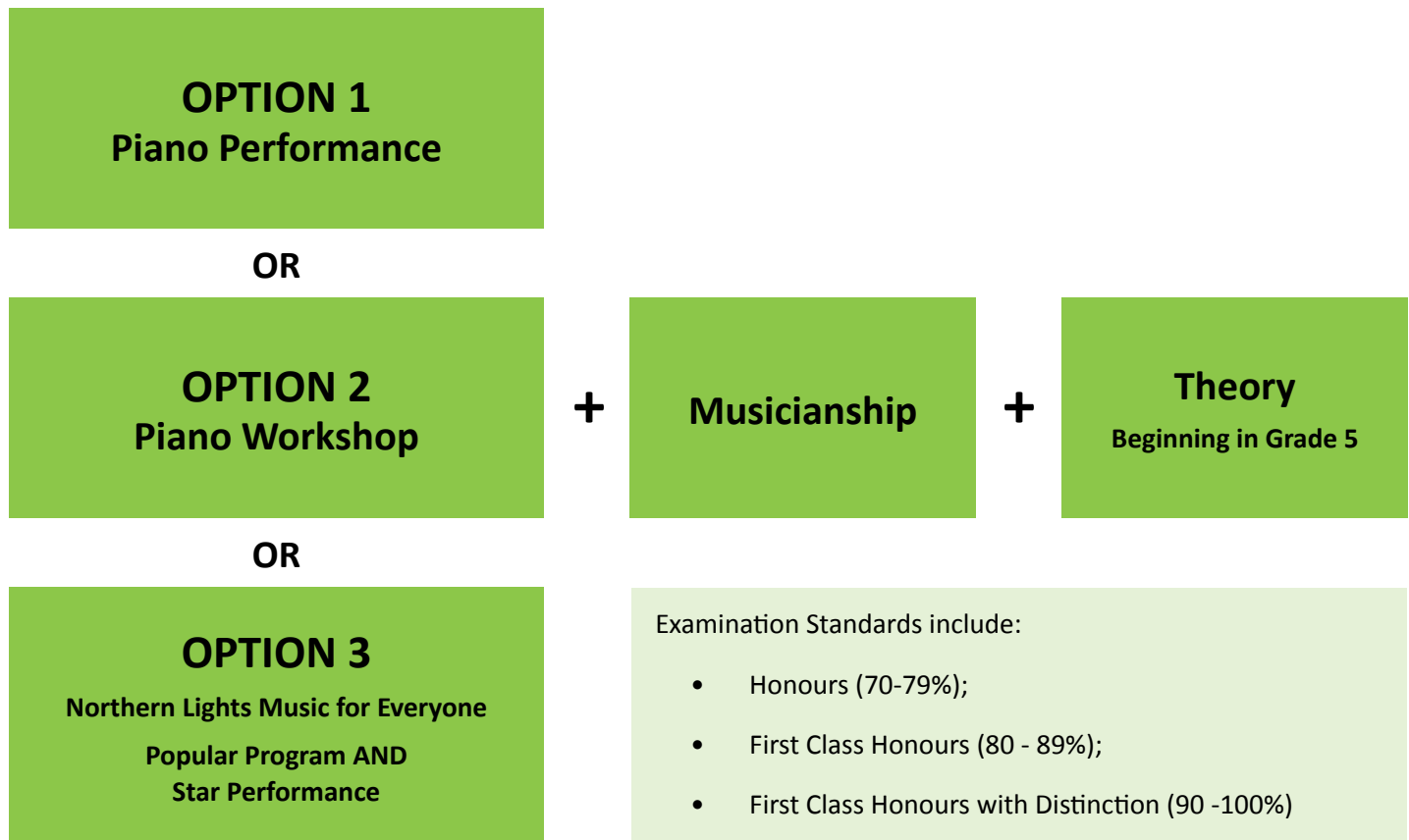
## Achieving a Complete *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music Grade

*Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music is an incorporated not-for-profit organization which provides a substantive and rigorous curriculum for piano students across Canada.

The CNCM program is a holistic approach to piano study including performance, musicianship (technique, aural skills, sight reading, vocalization, harmonization, transposition, and improvisation), and co-requisite theory requirements. CNCM program requirements are equal to or exceed those of currently recognized Canadian conservatory programs at any given level.

*Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music also promotes and supports Canadian music, as demonstrated through their publications of more than 30 all-Canadian piano collections from pre-reading to performance levels.

CNCM offers students a flexible approach in the completion of a piano level with three options:



Students' work is assessed during a face to face OR online examination format with an appointed, highly qualified CNCM examiner. The assessment is prepared in a written format and is issued as a hard copy to the student's teacher. A hard-copy certificate is issued when all requirements are successfully completed within the required time limit of one academic year.

CNCM students build musical understanding and competence through research, the art of performance (personal recital format), musicianship skills, technique, and life-skills (oral presentation within the performance examination). A wide variety of musical styles is expected within the examination selections, including Canadian content.



The following graphics and charts illustrate the different streams, using the Grade 2 and Grade 6 levels as examples.

**Piano Performance (20 minutes)**

8 pieces including: Renaissance or Baroque, Rococo or Classical, Romantic, 20th-21st Century Idioms, Canadian, Etude, Candidate's Choice, Encore OR theme-based

*Candidates perform for an audience, prepare a written programme with programme notes, and introduce each piece. 5 works must be memorized.*

OR

**Piano Workshop (25 minutes)**

7 pieces including: Renaissance or Baroque, Rococo or Classical, Romantic or 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century Idioms, two Etudes, two of Candidate's Choice

*Candidates must perform at least one Canadian composition. Candidates will be required to answer musical knowledge questions about their pieces.*

OR

**Northern Lights Music for Everyone  
Finess Level (35 minutes total)**

**Popular Program**

- » Own choice or original composition (gr. 2 level)
- » Own choice with electronic accompaniment (gr. 2 level)
- » One Lead Line Sheet in the key of C, F or D major utilising I, IV, V harmony
- » Improvisation
- » Transposition of a single line melody from C major to D major

*Candidates must perform at least one Canadian work.*

**Star Performance**

4 pieces at grade 2 level with contrast of tempo, meter, and style.

Candidates perform for an audience, prepare a written programme with programme notes, and introduce each piece.

*Candidates must perform at least one Canadian work.*

*Memorization recommended but not required.*

+

**Musicianship  
15 minutes**

**Aural:** Identify time signatures, clap back a rhythm, play/singback a melody, identify major or minor scales, identify intervals within a 4-note chord, identify triads

**Vocalization:** Utilising solfège, sing a major 5-finger penta scale, sing and play a 5-finger melody

**Sight Reading:** Clap a rhythm at sight and perform a passage at sight

**Transpose:** a melody at sight

**Harmonization:** a short melody with the I chord

**Improvisation:** Complete a two measure phrase with an improvised melody

**Technical Requirements:** Scales in a variety of forms, chords, and arpeggios

**Theory  
Not Required**

Although CNCM does not offer a co-requisite theory program at this level it is highly recommended that students develop a strong theoretical understanding



**Did you know?**

***The Music for Everyone Popular Program and Star Performance levels are named for Canadian composers!***



**GRADE TWO PIANO PERFORMANCE EXAMINATION**

**EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS:** (see page 9 for General Performance Requirements)

<b>Examination Length:</b>	<b>Performance:</b> 20 minutes*	<b>Grade 2 Diploma =</b> Performance + Musicianship completed within 12 months
	<b>Musicianship:</b> 15 minutes	
	<b>TOTAL:</b> 35 minutes	

\*Be sure all chosen repertoire, set-up, oral presentation, audience participation, entry and departure can be performed within the **20-minute time performance period.**

**Period List Repertoire:** Candidates must prepare the following works\*:

**\*\*Candidates MUST perform at least one Canadian composition. ONE selection MUST be from the Northern Lights or Making Tracks series.**

Listing	Description	Number of Pieces
List A	Renaissance <b>OR</b> Baroque Repertoire	One
List B	Rococo <b>OR</b> Classical Repertoire	One
List C	Romantic	One
List D	20 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> Century Idioms	One
Canadian	20 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> Century	One
Study	Study from any period	One
Additional	Any piece of the Candidate's choice***	One
Encore	Any piece of the Candidate's choice (see page 10) (may be 2 grades lower than tested grade)	One

\*\*\***Additional Piece:** Candidates will prepare **ONE** additional work as follows:

- another piano solo **at this level OR** no more than one grade level lower than the tested grade
- an ensemble work – piano duet, trio, small chamber group
- a vocal solo –may or may not be accompanied by the candidate/accompanist
- a work on a second instrument – violin, flute, clarinet, etc.
- an original composition – a completed copy to be given to the examiner
- a solo accompanied by CD

**2. Theme Examination:**

Candidates must prepare and perform at least:

- seven repertoire selections
- must also include at least one encore

Be sure all chosen repertoire, set-up, oral presentation, audience participation, entry and departure can be performed within the **20-minute time period.**

**NOTE:** Encore piece(s) may be any piano solo of the Candidate's choice.

**NORTHERN LIGHTS MUSIC FOR EVERYONE \*FIESS LEVEL (F LEVEL)**

**EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS:**

\*The *Northern Lights Music for Everyone Fieess Level* is named in honour of Canadian composer Stephen Fieess. Candidates may opt for either the Popular Program or the Star Performance or both.

**EXAMINATION LENGTH: 15 minutes\* (each examination)**

\*Be sure all chosen repertoire, set-up, oral presentation, audience participation, entry and departure can be performed within the **15-minute time performance period.**

<i>Northern Lights Popular Program Fieess Level (F Level) Requirements</i>	<i>Northern Lights Star Performance Fieess Level (F Level) Requirements</i>
<p>1. <b>Repertoire:</b> (20 marks) own choice <b>OR</b> original composition which requires level pre-approval by Registrar</p> <p>2. <b>Repertoire:</b> (20 marks) own choice with an electronic accompaniment Either item <b>1 OR 2 MUST</b> be a Canadian work. Memory is recommended but not required.</p> <p>3. <b>Lead Line/Sheet:</b> (20 marks) prepare a work based on a lead line as follows: i) in the key of C, F or D Major ii) utilizing I, IV and V(?) harmony with full triad in root position <b>OR</b> close juxtaposition (minimum requirement) iii) from a commercial lead line or a lead line of a <b>public domain</b> work prepared by the teacher</p> <p>4. <b>Improvisation:</b> (20 marks) prepare a work requiring improvisation. <b>Example:</b> Any work from <i>American Popular Piano Prep/Level 1 Improv Etudes</i> by Norton</p> <p>5. <b>Transposition:</b> (20 marks) prepare a work and transpose as follows: i) Any single line melody work in C Major transposed to D Major.</p> <p><b>EXAMINATION LENGTH:</b> 15 minutes</p> <p>Parents and teacher are welcome to attend.</p>	<p>1. <b>Repertoire:</b> <b>FOUR</b> (15 marks each) <b>own choice works</b> of a level equal to Grade Two as follows: i) <b>ONE</b> Canadian work <b>MUST</b> be included (<b>ONE selection MUST be from the Northern Lights or Making Tracks series.</b>) ii) Demonstrate contrast in tempo, metre and style iii) Memory is recommended but not required</p> <p>2. <b>Oral Presentation:</b> (10 marks) a brief introduction for each work. <b>EXAMPLE:</b> <i>Ragtime</i> was written by ... In the style of.... (See Piano Syllabus page 9)</p> <p>3. <b>Written Program:</b> (10 marks) to be created by the student and <b>MUST</b> include: i) The level. Example: <i>Northern Lights Fieess (F Level) Star Performance</i> ii) Piano Syllabus page 9 &amp; samples <a href="https://www.cncm.ca/examination-resources.html">https://www.cncm.ca/examination-resources.html</a></p> <p>4. <b>Performance Etiquette:</b> (10 marks) see Piano Syllabus page 10</p> <p>5. <b>Repertoire Selection:</b> (10 marks) one Canadian work; three other works with contrast in tempo, metre and style appropriate to the level (see CNCM Piano Syllabus page 10)</p> <p><b>EXAMINATION LENGTH:</b> 15 minutes</p> <p>Audience welcome.</p> <p><b>Grade 2 Diploma =</b> NLF Popular + NLF Star Performance + Musicianship completed within 12 months</p>



# Shaping Canada's vast musical landscape

## MUSICIANSHIP EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS:

(for Grade Two Performance, Workshop and Music for Everyone Finess Level (F Level))

### Aural Components: (12 marks)

- i. Identify the following melodic intervals:
  - major second (or step)
  - major third (or skip)
  - ascending or descending
- ii. Clap back the rhythmic pattern of a four-bar phrase as follows:
  - in  $\frac{3}{4}$  or  $\frac{4}{4}$  time
  - consisting of dotted half, half, dotted quarter, quarter and/or eighth note values
- iii. Identify a *major* or *natural minor* scale as follows:
  - ascending and descending
  - at a moderate tempo
- iv. Identify a *major* or *minor* triad played once as follows:
  - broken form
  - root position (close)
- v. A *major* four-note chord will be played once as follows:
  - broken form
  - root position (close)
  - ascending and descending

One of the four notes will be resounded, and the *candidate* will be required to identify it as *doh*, *mi*, *sol* or *high doh*.
- vi. Play or sing back a short melody:
  - in C Major
  - using the first three notes of the scale
  - steps and skips will be included
  - beginning and ending on the tonic

The *Northern Lights* CNCM Aural Component was designed to provide teachers and students with a developmental aural skills curriculum. The program is progressive with each new component thoughtfully supported by previously learned materials.

ie identification of 'steps & skips' progresses easily to interval identification

### Vocalization: (12 marks) (Candidates are not graded on voice quality)

- i. Candidates will sing and play:
  - a five-finger pattern, one hand **ONLY** in a major key
  - beginning on two different tonics of the candidate's choice
  - ascending and descending
  - using solfège (*doh, re, mi, fah, sol, fah, mi, re, doh*)
- ii. Candidates will sing and play at sight:
  - a two-bar melody in a C Major or D Major five-finger pattern
  - using solfège (*doh, re, mi, fah, sol*)

The *Northern Lights* CNCM Vocalization encourages students to use their voice to assist in the development of internalization of sounds. The voice quality is not being assessed; students simply need to make the effort to tone match, move their voice and identify *sofège* based on a moveable *doh*.

### Sight Reading: (12 marks)

- i. Candidates must clap:
  - a four-bar passage in  $\frac{3}{4}$  or  $\frac{4}{4}$
  - using dotted half, half, dotted quarter, quarter and/or eighth note values
- ii. Candidates must perform a piano passage at sight. Fingering will be provided, and the passage will be divided between the hands. The passage will include some of the following criteria:
  - keys: C, D, G or F Major
  - time signatures:  $\frac{3}{4}$  or  $\frac{4}{4}$
  - note values: dotted half, half, quarters and eighth note values

### Transposition: (10 marks)

- i. Candidates will be required to transpose at sight:
  - a short, five finger right hand melody
  - C Major to D Major; C Major to F Major; C Major to G Major

### Harmonization: (10 marks)

- i. Candidates will harmonize a C Major, G Major or F Major five finger pattern melody as follows:
  - left hand close position triad
  - tonic triad only

Proper placement of chords will be marked by an "X"

### Improvisation: (5 marks)

- i. Candidates will complete a two-measure phrase:
  - with two responding measures
  - ending on the tonic in C Major



FIVE FINGER PATTERN Tonic through Dominant	KEYS	HANDS	M.M. ↓ =	ARTICULATION
Major	C, G, D, F, A	Together	80	Legato, Staccato in eighth notes
Minor	a, e, d, g	Together	80	Legato, Staccato in eighth notes

SCALES	KEYS	HANDS	OCTAVES	M.M. ↓ =	ARTICULATION
Major	C, G, D, F	Separately	2	80	Legato in eighth notes
Natural Minor	a, e, d	Separately	2	80	Legato in eighth notes
Harmonic Minor	a, e, d	Separately	2	80	Legato in eighth notes
Contrary Motion	C, G	Together	2	80	Legato in eighth notes
Chromatic	C	Separately	1	72	Legato in eighth notes

TRIADS	KEYS	POSITION	HANDS	OCTAVES	M.M. ↓ =	NOTE VALUES
Solid: Major Minor	C, G, D, F a, e, d	Root and Inversions	Separately	1	120	In quarter notes, each position separated by a quarter rest
Broken: Major Minor	C, G, D, F a, e, d	Root and Inversions	Separately	1	60	In triplet eighth notes

ARPEGGIOS	KEYS	POSITION	HANDS	OCTAVES	M.M. ↓ =	NOTE VALUES
Major Minor	C, G, D, F a, e, d	Root	Alternate	4	76	In triplet eighth notes

## Frequently asked questions regarding the *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music Practical Exams

### **How can I be sure the repertoire selected is at the required grade level?**

Teachers are encouraged to reach out to the Office of the Registrar at [registrar@cncm.ca](mailto:registrar@cncm.ca) free of charge for level assessment. In the case of the Music for Everyone levels A through C level assessment is not required; CNCM simply suggests that the repertoire be of a similar level.

### **How long does a student have to complete a full grade?**

Students have 12 months to complete all the required credits to receive a full grade diploma.

### **What if my student advances more quickly than anticipated and is capable of moving to a new grade level before completing the previous grade?**

CNCM students may 'mix & match' levels by opting to use a credit one level higher as part of their full grade diploma. (ie Grade 2 Performance + Grade 3 Musicianship = Complete Grade 2 if all credits were completed within the 12-month deadline)

### **Can my students opt for examinations to be scheduled anytime?**

CNCM has always offered seasonal specific examinations in Winter, Spring and Summer, as well as special date requests. Since COVID-19, CNCM examinations have become even more flexible. Although current examination formats include online or video submission, in-person examinations will return in the future when and where it is possible. All three options will be available on an ongoing basis. Contact us at [cncmoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cncmoffice@gmail.com) to request your examination dates.

### **What themes are acceptable for performance examinations?**

Themes can be based on everything from traditional to pop, jazz and rock. Students often develop a strong connection with a specific composer, or topics/interests such as animals, modes, travel, nature, etc. – it truly is open to the imagination. There are no restrictions other than the program must demonstrate contrast in key, metre, tempo and style and the Canadian component remains the same as a traditional examination.



**Exam fees for *Northern Lights* Canadian Conservatory of Music are on par with other leading Canadian Conservatories.**



**Piano Performance (35 minutes)**

8 pieces including: Renaissance or Baroque, Rococo or Classical, Romantic, 20th-21st Century Idioms, Canadian, Etude, Candidate's Choice, Encore OR theme-based

*Candidates perform for an audience, prepare a written programme with programme notes, and introduce each piece. 5 works must be memorized.*

OR

**Piano Workshop (30 minutes)**

7 pieces including: Renaissance or Baroque, Rococo or Classical, Romantic or 20th-21st Century Idioms, two Etudes, two of Candidate's Choice

*Candidates must perform at least one Canadian composition. Candidates will be required to answer musical knowledge questions about their pieces.*

OR

**Northern Lights Music for Everyone  
Katya Level (30 minutes total)**

**Popular Program**

- » Own choice or original composition (gr. 6 level)
- » Own choice with electronic accompaniment (gr. 6 level)
- » Two Lead Line Sheets in the key of D, A or B flat major AND in a-minor utilising I, IV, V harmony
- » Improvisation
- » Transposition of a grade 3 work from C major to D & B flat major

*Candidates must perform at least one Canadian work.*

**Star Performance**

4 pieces at grade 6 level with contrast of tempo, meter, and style.

Candidates perform for an audience, prepare a written programme with programme notes, and introduce each piece.

*Candidates must perform at least one Canadian work.*

+

**Musicianship  
25 minutes**

**Aural:** Identify time signatures, clap back a rhythm, playback a melody, identify cadences, identify harmonic & melodic intervals, sing back a short melody, identify triads and chords

**Vocalization:** Utilising solfège, sing a major and minor scale, sing and play a major arpeggio, and sing and play a major and minor passage at sight

**Sight Reading:** Clap a rhythm at sight and perform a passage at sight

**Transpose:** a melody at sight

**Harmonization:** A short melody with I-V-I and I-IV-I chords

**Improvisation:** Complete a two measure phrase with an improvised melody and harmonization

**Technical Requirements:** Scales in a variety of forms, chords, arpeggios and technical exercises

+

**Theory  
2 hours**

**Keys:** all major and minor

**Rhythm:** simple and compound

**Accidentals:** including double sharp and flat

**Scales:** all major and minor, degrees of the scale, identify blues, pentatonic, whole tone, octatonic and chromatic scales

**Intervals:** major, minor, perfect, augmented, diminished in all major and minor keys

**Chord Types:** major and minor triads, root position and inversions, identification using Roman Numerals, identification of dominant seventh chord

**Cadences:** perfect and plagal in major and minor tonalities

**Transposition:** identify the key of a given excerpt and transpose a melody up a given interval or to a given key

**Correction of Errors**

**Ornaments:** grace note and trill

**Analysis:** key, chords, intervals, signs, terms

**Melody Writing:** complete a two-bar phrase in major and minor keys

**For full requirements:**

>> CNCM 2012 Piano Syllabus

>> CNCM 2012 Theory and History Syllabus





## Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music

### Equivalency Comparison Chart for Grade Six Practical

Requirements Grade Six Practical	Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music	Some Recognized Canadian Conservatory Requirements
<b>Technical Requirements</b>		
Formula Patterns	5 keys	2 keys
Similar Motion Scales	6 keys: <i>legato</i> and <i>staccato</i>	8 keys: <i>legato</i> only
Contrary Motion Scales	5 keys	not required
Blues Scales	2 keys	not required
Pentatonic Scale	2 keys	not required
Chromatic Scales	beginning on C#	beginning on E, Db
Triads	Hands Together Solid and Broken	
Dominant and Diminished Seventh Chords	Solid and Broken	
Arpeggios	Major and minor keys Dominant and Diminished Sevenths	
Exercises	Hanon #4-6: <i>legato</i> and <i>staccato</i>	not required
<b>Aural Tests</b>		
Identification of time signatures	yes	not required
Rhythm Clap Back	yes	yes
Melody Play Back	yes	yes
Chorale Identification; Major/Minor and Cadence	Perfect, plagal and interrupted cadences	Perfect, plagal cadences
Identification of Melodic Intervals	yes	yes
Identification of Harmonic Intervals	yes	not required
Melody Sing Back	yes	not required
Identification of chords	Major, minor, dominant 7 <sup>th</sup> and diminished 7 <sup>th</sup> chords	
<b>Vocalization</b>		
Vocalization of major and minor scales	yes	not required
Sight Sing in major and minor keys	yes	not required
Vocalization of major arpeggio	yes	not required
<b>Sight Reading</b>		
Blank rhythm and piano passage	yes	yes
<b>Transposition</b>		
Transpose two passages at sight up or down a major 2nd	yes	not required
<b>Harmonization</b>		
I-V-I and I-IV-I Progressions and harmonization at sight of two different passages	4 keys	not required
<b>Improvisation</b>		
Improvise and harmonize and answering phrase	4 keys	not required
<b>Repertoire Requirements</b>		
Number of works required	8 works	5 works
Memory	5 works	3 works
Musical Knowledge	yes	not required
<b>Examination Length</b>		
	60 minutes	15 minutes
<b>Theory Co-Requisite</b>		
	Grade 6 Theory	Level 6 Theory



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## Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music Theory and History Programs



Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music maintains a complete, comprehensive theoretical curriculum, including rudiments, grades 5 through 8, harmony, counterpoint, analysis and history, grades 9 through Associate. Each of these credits is a co-requisite to the practical examination program.

Typically, the examination format for these sessions are group situations at selected centres. However, CNCM allows small studios/groups to host theory/history examinations with the teacher as acting proctor. Private sessions are also possible upon request.

Examinations are offered at three exam sessions, February, May and August of the calendar year. Special date requests may be submitted, and upon approval from the examination board confirmations will be issued.

Certificates will be awarded upon the successful completion of each complete theoretical credit.

CNCM offers flexibility in the registration for credits in grades 9 through Associate theory credits.

Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music offers:

- a Rudiment program which carries similar in requirements to other Canadian conservatories
- a Harmony program which includes chorale style & piano accompaniment writing, counterpoint and basic analysis. The examination may be written as a complete examination or in 2-parts requiring completion within 12 months of the first examination.
- a History program which is progressive in nature and includes a listening component. The examination may be written as a complete examination or in 3-parts requiring completion within 12 months of the first examination.
- an Analysis program which carries similar in requirements to other Canadian conservatories

To view a complete overview of each grade, go to our website to view and or download (free), the current 2012 Theory syllabus.

Sample examination papers are available for purchase upon request by contacting [cncmoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cncmoffice@gmail.com)

### Northern Lights An Exploration of Canadian Piano Music Series

Northern Lights An Exploration of Canadian Piano Music is a graded series of piano solos produced by Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music. Although all works are Canadian the following substitutions may be made without pre-approval.

GRADE	SUBSTITUTION WITHOUT PRE-APPROVAL
Introductory through Grade Four General Performance	A maximum of <b>TWO</b> stylistic works. At least one of these works must be selected from the <i>Northern Lights: An Exploration of Canadian Piano Music</i> and substituted for period works. <b>Example:</b> Grade One: Classical style <i>Wilderness Sonata I</i> and Romantic style <i>Petite Waltz</i> may be included in lieu of a period Classical and Romantic work. All other works <b>MUST</b> be period appropriate.
Grade Five through Eight	A maximum of <b>ONE</b> stylistic work from the <i>Northern Lights: An Exploration of Canadian Piano Music</i> graded series OR the <i>Making Tracks</i> series may be substituted for period works. <b>Example:</b> Grade Five: Baroque style Prelude and Fugue may be included in lieu of a Baroque period work. All other works <b>MUST</b> be period appropriate.
Grade Nine to Licentiate	No substitution available

## Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music Pedagogy Diplomas

The *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music has developed its examination programs to provide a maximum amount of curriculum and as much creative flexibility as possible.

The pedagogy curriculum is a unique series of diplomas for all levels of training. Experienced and new teachers will find the *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music pedagogy curriculum to be stimulating and comprehensive.

Each diploma may be built credit by credit, allowing busy studio teachers an opportunity to study while gaining experience. Pedagogy candidates have the option of completing a full pedagogy diploma or choosing individual credits of interest. Each successfully completed credit is rewarded with a certificate to be shared with students and teachers within their studio to demonstrate ongoing professional development.



The **Early Childhood Music Education Diploma** is a five-credit program designed to develop a comprehensive understanding of pre-school children and music programs. Candidates will study early childhood psychology, available programs and may even develop their own pre-school music program.

<https://www.cncm.ca/early-childhood-music-education-diploma.html>



The **Primary and Elementary Piano Pedagogy Diploma** is a five-credit program for the new teacher. The focus of the program is on the beginner piano student through grade two. Candidates delve into method books, repertoire and all areas pertaining to these early years.

<https://www.cncm.ca/primary-and-elementary-piano-pedagogy-diploma.html>



The **Associate in Piano Pedagogy** is a twelve-credit program encompassing performance, pedagogy and musicianship. The *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music Associate Diploma is unique and develops both skills and applied pedagogy for each course of study.

<https://www.cncm.ca/associate-diploma-in-piano-pedagogy-by-credit.html>



The **Licentiate in Piano Pedagogy** is a seven-credit program. The Licentiate Diploma expands on the candidate's repertoire and pedagogy skill. It combines written papers with performance and research to be a truly rewarding and inspiring program.

<https://www.cncm.ca/licentiate-diploma-in-piano-pedagogy.html>



The **Junior and Senior Fellowship Diplomas in Piano Pedagogy** are both twelve-credit programs. These diplomas take piano pedagogy to new levels, combining performance and pedagogy research. Candidates will once again expand their repertoire at the junior and senior levels with each of these diplomas.

<https://www.cncm.ca/junior-fellowship-diploma-in-piano-pedagogy.html>

<https://www.cncm.ca/senior-fellowship-diploma-in-piano-pedagogy.html>

The *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music is proud to offer these pedagogy diplomas. Teachers and students will both benefit from these unique diplomas. The *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music is proud to offer all teachers, new and experienced, the opportunity to truly enjoy the lifelong study and performance of music.



*Shaping Canada's vast musical landscape*

## **Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music Examination Time Allotment**

As a student-focused program, CNCM has opted for examination formats which provide students with longer examinations than traditionally experienced. Examination time allotments were created to allow every student ample time to relax and engage with CNCM examiners and to perform ALL repertoire without interruption.

<b>GRADE</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>MUSICIANSHIP</b>	<b>COMPLETE EXAMINATION</b>
Introductory	15 minutes	Not Required	15 minutes
Grades One & Two	20 minutes	15 minutes	35 minutes
Grades Three & Four	25 minutes	20 minutes	45 minutes
Grade Five	25 minutes	25 minutes	50 minutes
Grade Six	35 minutes	25 minutes	60 minutes
Grade Seven	35 minutes	30 minutes	65 minutes
Grade Eight	35 minutes	35 minutes	70 minutes
Grade Nine	45 minutes	35 minutes	80 minutes
Grade Ten	50 minutes	35 minutes	85 minutes
Associate Performer	95 minutes	Not Required	95 minutes
Licentiate Performer	110 minutes	Not Required	110 minutes

<b>Northern Lights Music For Everyone</b>		
<b>LEVEL</b>	<b>POPULAR PROGRAM</b>	<b>STAR PERFORMANCE</b>
A (Anderson) to E (Ernst)	10 minutes	10 minutes
F (Fiess) to J (Joyce)	15 minutes	15 minutes
K (Katya) to M (Michael)	20 minutes	20 minutes
N (Nancy)	25 minutes	25 minutes
O (O Canada) to P (Porter)	Not Available	40 minutes

## Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music Coaching Classes



Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music Coaching Class is a unique and creative interactive/assessment program for piano students and teachers on any topic of their choice ie performance, repertoire interpretation, technique, pedagogy and more.

The CNCM Coaching Class is a new and exciting learning experience for piano students, enabling them to work directly with CNCM examiners and adjudicators.

The benefits of participating in a CNCM Coaching Class are numerous:

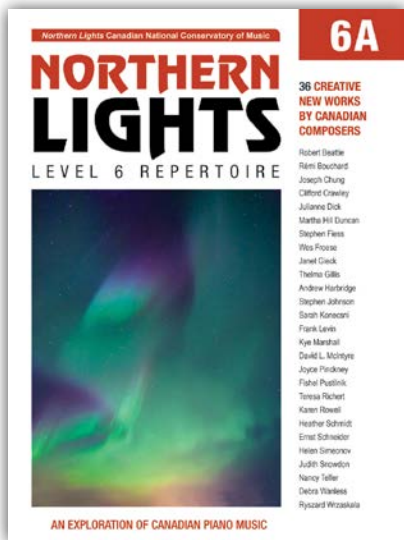
1. every stage of preparation, level/stage of learning and skill is welcome to register for CNCM Coaching Class; Coaching Classes are of special appeal to adults because of the relaxed interactive approach.
2. a CNCM Coaching Class maybe be used as an introduction to examinations
3. a CNCM Coaching Class provides an opportunity for students to prepare a smaller number of works yet set a goal similar to an examination setting
4. a CNCM Coaching Class may be a useful tool in preparing for future examinations or auditions
5. a CNCM Coaching Class may assist teachers with tips and approaches to teaching various topics
6. all students from all conservatories within your community may be invited to participate
7. students or teachers select their own repertoire or topic to be covered during the CNCM Coaching Class
8. CNCM Coaching Classes may be hosted in private studios
9. CNCM Coaching Classes may be requested during regularly scheduled examination sessions or as an independent event at another time
10. participating students and teachers must provide a performance or topic list with the CNCM Coaching Class Application

For more information visit <https://www.cncm.ca/coaching-classes.html>



# Shaping Canada's vast musical landscape

## Published Works & Composer Numbers



The *Northern Lights* and *Making Tracks* collections are CNCM's flagship series. They are developed from submissions by Canadian composers from across the country. Currently, we have increased our production to 42 books, and published more than 168 Canadian composers; this includes a blend of well-known names along with many who were first published by CNCM and have now become widely known. A grand total of 936 pieces have now been produced by CNCM.

*Northern Lights* is a graded series of new and original piano music, exclusively Canadian. The solos series is a complete range, from pre-reader right through Grade 8. The Northern Lights Duet series has a total of five books, ranging from Primary through Intermediate levels.

To celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary, we produced a fresh collection of O Canada arrangements; and two volumes of new

arrangements of Canadian Folksongs.

*Making Tracks An Expedition in Canadian Piano Music* is a series of piano repertoire rooted in our national railroad history and designed to:

- Provide Canadian and international students with sound pedagogical material for study purposes blended with Canada's rich railroad history
- Provide students with repertoire written in all genres from neo-Baroque to jazz by Canadian composers blended with Canada's rich railroad history
- Provide students with performance repertoire with audience appeal that is at the same time pedagogically sound and blended with Canada's rich railroad history
- Provide repertoire for performance, study, sight reading, examinations, and recreation
- Provide ideal Canadian music to festivals
- Create repertoire that could be used by any school of music
- Provide established and new Canadian composers with a voice by having their works selected for inclusion



### Where can I order CNCM Publications?

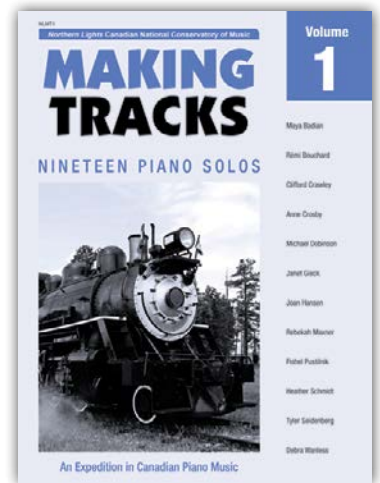
» [CNCM Website](#)

» [Debra Wanless Music](#)

» [Long & McQuade Stores](#)

*Making Tracks An Expedition in Canadian Piano Music* was originally launched in 2006. This was the first series created by CNCM in support of Canadian writers and performers. *Making Tracks An Expedition in Canadian Piano Music* series includes:

1. Volume One – nineteen piano solos by twelve Canadian composers spanning elementary to intermediate works
2. Volume Two – eleven intermediate to advancing piano solos and one piano duet (1 piano/4 hands) by ten Canadian composers
3. Volume Three – contains four –two piano/four hands works by Marcel Bergmann, Marco Burak, Steve Hansen Smyth and Gordon Rumson
4. Volume Four: *Making Tracks Small Town Canada An Expedition in Canadian Piano Music* – contains twenty-two piano solos by eighteen Canadian composers celebrating small towns and communities across Canada. (Intermediate Level)
5. Volume Five: *Making Tracks Across Canada An Expedition in Canadian Piano Music* – contains twenty-two piano solos by seventeen Canadian composers celebrating all things Canadian. (Intermediate to Advanced Level)



Each volume includes program notes, as well as composer biographies and photos. Volumes One and Two also include a short history of the railroad – written by Canadian composer Michael Dobinson.

## Video Series

For the past few months *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music has been working on a new and exciting YouTube project. The pieces in the first series of videos are 'Winter' themed works written by Canadian composers. The piano solos are drawn from the CNCM *Northern Lights*, *Making Tracks* and *Folksong* series.

The videos also feature the debut of a fantastic new CNCM theme by Wes Froese and a message from Dale Donaldson on behalf of the CNCM Board.





## Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music Composers & Kids

Composers & Kids is another unique program offered by Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music which promotes exposure and connection to Canadian music and composers.

Through Composers & Kids, CNCM is partnering with private studios and music organizations to bring Canadian composers to piano students in their own community. Students, teachers, families and composers come together to share Canadian music in a relaxed and inspiring setting.

Some of the benefits experienced by CNCM Composers & Kids include:

1. meeting, performing and sharing compositional ideas with our amazing Canadian writers
2. inspirational musical memories are created in a comfortable educational setting.
3. teachers, families and friends are brought together by real Canadian music stories and ideas
4. Composers & Kids is available to any studio or organization
5. teachers may determine the appropriate format for their C&K event (master classes, cabaret composition workshop)
6. every stage of preparation, level/stage of learning and skill is welcome to participate in C&K events. CNCM encourages hosting teachers/studios to also perform

Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music is a not-for-profit organization and Composers & Kids is a CNCM fundraiser which gives back to communities across Canada. This inspiring program is another way in which CNCM strives to fulfill its mandate of promoting Canadian music at all levels.

For more information visit <https://www.cncm.ca/composers--kids.html>

*"Composers & Kids is the kind of initiative that gets kids inside music."*

--Lawrence Jones, retired professor,  
Brandon University

