

# PRSSV Institute of Performing Arts and Heritage

## World Music and Dance Examinations Group Performance Awards Syllabuses



**PRSSV – Institute of Performing Arts and Heritage**

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Published by  
PRSSV – Institute of Performing Arts and Heritage  
First Floor-Dominion Centre and Library  
112 The Green  
Middlesex  
UB2 4BQ  
UK

Registered Charity Number 328062  
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Published 2022

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## PRSSV Institute of Performing Arts and Heritage

PRSSV is the leading examination board concerned with the support and the promotion of World Music and Dance and it has over 30 years of experience in providing graded examinations. Currently, the subjects provided are Indian classical music (both Carnatic and Hindustani subjects) and Steel Pan. The organisation is committed to expanding its provision for World Music and Dance as a part of its development process and is currently working on the syllabuses for Folk Dance, Dholak, Bouzouki and Djembe.

The suite of qualifications that PRSSV offers in World Music and Dance Performance include graded qualifications taking a candidate from beginner to advanced level, with performance and teaching qualifications up to Diploma Level. Also, PRSSV provides accredited qualifications in Heritage Skills including oral history, exhibition development, digitisation and care of collections.

All students who appear for these examinations will have studied in a unitised programme accredited by OCN Credit4Learning. This accreditation is evidence that PRSSV examinations are audited to the same standard, quality and expectations as for example a GCSE, an A Level or in Higher Education and are therefore recognised internationally.

Anyone interested in appearing for these examinations or teachers wishing to register their students for these examinations can contact the PRSSV office for further information.

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# ~Group Performance Awards~ ~Syllabuses~

Stage One - Emerald  
Stage Two - Ruby  
Stage Three - Sapphire  
Stage Four (Level 1) - Diamond

NB: See notes on examining, the application process and submission of recordings.  
For syllabuses for dance, voice and ensembles of more than 8 performers please contact  
the examinations office at [examinations@prssv.org](mailto:examinations@prssv.org)



## STAGE ONE

### EMERALD AWARD

#### **Part 1: Group Performance**

Candidates will be examined both individually and how they conduct themselves in the group.

Arrangements should be tailored so that featured parts within the arrangement are clearly shown and there must be time built in for this. The complexity of the featured parts increases through the stages and the examiner has to be able to discern those within the arrangement and feel confident that the contribution is solid and sustainable musically.

The performance piece is to be arranged so that it is sensitive to the uniqueness of a particular culture. That is to say that the music performed on instruments must not be limited to the mere production of sounds on those instruments but must reflect the traditional way in which music is organised on those instruments. As most World music traditions are by definition oral traditions, emphasis will be placed on oral learning and performance from memory.

Length of pieces: Pieces must be between 2 and 5 minutes long, determined by

- Abilities of the players
- The size of the group
- Long enough to give each member the opportunity to shine.

Each candidate will be assessed on:-

- Technical skills
- Group playing skills
- Sound quality
- Level of understanding
- Rhythmic ability
- Sense of performance

#### **Part 2: Technical Demonstration.**

Each candidate will be expected to perform one technical exercise that shows basic technique for the instrument and demonstrates how particular challenges within the arranged piece were overcome.

#### **Part 3: Reflective Practice.**

Each candidate will write about their experience of playing in the group. Sample are available from the examinations office.

## STAGE TWO

### RUBY AWARD

#### **Part 1: Group Performance**

Candidates will be examined both individually and how they conduct themselves in the group.

Arrangements should be tailored so that featured parts within the arrangement are clearly shown and there must be time built in for this. The complexity of the featured parts increases through the stages and the examiner has to be able to discern those within the arrangement and feel confident that the contribution is solid and sustainable musically.

The performance piece is to be arranged so that it is sensitive to the uniqueness of a particular culture. That is to say that the music performed on instruments must not be limited to the mere production of sounds on those instruments but must reflect the traditional way in which music is organised on those instruments. As most World music traditions are by definition oral traditions, emphasis will be placed on oral learning and performance from memory.

Length of pieces: Pieces must be between 2 and 5 minutes long, determined by

- Abilities of the players
- The size of the group
- Long enough to give each member the opportunity to shine.

Each candidate will be assessed on:-

- Technical skills
- Group playing skills
- Sound quality
- Level of understanding
- Rhythmic ability
- Sense of performance

#### **Part 2: Technical Demonstration.**

Each candidate will be expected to perform one technical exercise that shows the technique for the instrument played in the form of a scale or small study piece. This exercise should reflect a playing technique or note/stroke combination used in the group performance piece and should reflect the stage the student has been entered for.

#### **Part 2: Technical Demonstration.**

Each candidate will be expected to perform one technical exercise that shows basic technique for the instrument and demonstrates how particular challenges within the arranged piece were overcome.

#### **Part 3: Reflective Practice.**

Each candidate will write about their experience of playing in the group. Sample are available from the examinations office.

## STAGE THREE

### SAPPHIRE AWARD

#### **Part 1: Group Performance**

Candidates will be examined both individually and how they conduct themselves in the group.

Arrangements should be tailored so that featured parts within the arrangement are clearly shown and there must be time built in for this. The complexity of the featured parts increases through the stages and the examiner has to be able to discern those within the arrangement and feel confident that the contribution is solid and sustainable musically.

The performance piece is to be arranged so that it is sensitive to the uniqueness of a particular culture. That is to say that the music performed on instruments must not be limited to the mere production of sounds on those instruments but must reflect the traditional way in which music is organised on those instruments. As most World music traditions are by definition oral traditions, emphasis will be placed on oral learning and performance from memory.

Length of pieces: Pieces must be between 2 and 5 minutes long, determined by

- Abilities of the players
- The size of the group
- Long enough to give each member the opportunity to shine.

Each candidate will be assessed on:-

- Technical skills
- Group playing skills
- Sound quality
- Level of understanding
- Rhythmic ability
- Sense of performance

#### **Part 2: Technical Demonstration.**

Each candidate will be expected to perform one technical exercise that shows the technique for the instrument played in the form of a scale or small study piece. This exercise should reflect a playing technique or note/stroke combination used in the group performance piece and should reflect the stage for which the student has been entered.

#### **Part 3: Reflective Practice.**

Each candidate will write about their experience of playing in the group. Sample are available from the examinations office.

## STAGE FOUR

### DIAMOND AWARD

#### **Part 1: Group Performance**

Candidates will be examined both individually and how they conduct themselves in the group.

Arrangements should be tailored so that featured parts within the arrangement are clearly shown and there must be time built in for this. The complexity of the featured parts increases through the stages and the examiner has to be able to discern those within the arrangement and feel confident that the contribution is solid and sustainable musically.

The performance piece is to be arranged so that it is sensitive to the uniqueness of a particular culture. That is to say that the music performed on instruments must not be limited to the mere production of sounds on those instruments but must reflect the traditional way in which music is organised on those instruments. As most World music traditions are by definition oral traditions, emphasis will be placed on oral learning and performance from memory.

Length of pieces: Pieces must be between 2 and 5 minutes long, determined by

- Abilities of the players
- The size of the group
- Long enough to give each member the opportunity to shine.

Each candidate will be assessed on:-

- Technical skills
- Group playing skills
- Sound quality
- Level of understanding
- Rhythmic ability
- Sense of performance

#### **Part 2: Technical Demonstration.**

Each candidate will be expected to perform one technical exercise that shows the technique for the instrument played in the form of a scale or small study piece. This exercise should reflect a playing technique or note/stroke combination used in the group performance piece and should reflect the stage for which the student has been entered.

#### **Part 3: Reflective Practice.**

Each candidate will write about their experience of playing in the group. Samples are available from the examinations office.