

ABOUT APA GRADE EXAMS

APA Grade Exams designed to support percussion students of any level by providing objective and professional analysis of their progress through a graded examination system.

Our examiners are renowned Australian percussion performers and educators with many years of experience working at the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, and Australian National Academy of Music. Each examiner offers constructive and formative feedback to encourage the ongoing development of all candidates.

Our goal is to acknowledge the candidates progress and mark their journey as they grow technically, artistically, and musically, to help young percussionists and their teachers not just to celebrate their progress, but also to focus on their next goals.

APA Syllabus designed to outline the creative and technical achievements that need to be covered as candidates move from beginner to advanced level playing orchestral percussion instruments.

Candidate can enrol in one of 3 sections of the APA Grade Exams:

Section 1 - Orchestral Percussion Instruments (Snare Drum, Timpani, Keyboard Percussion and Multi-Percussion) - from Preliminary to Grade 8 (Very Advanced)

Section 2 – Keyboard Percussion - grades are from Preliminary to Grade 8 (Very Advanced)

Section 3 - Snare Drum - grades are from Preliminary to Grade 8 (Very Advanced)

There are two options of having exam: in person or online via submitting video of the performance.

For live exams at the APA studio (143 Wells Street, South Melbourne) there are available two dates in 2023: **1 September and 3 December**

Submission of the videos for exams online could be at any time throughout the year by uploading video to YouTube as an unlisted file and sending a link to APA email address for viewing. Video recording could be done at any time, at home or during a lesson. **The video must be completed in one “take” without cuts or edits.**

GRADES AND EXAM DURATION

Preliminary – 20 minutes

Grade 1 – 20 minutes

Grade 2 – 25 minutes

Grade 3 – 30 minutes

Grade 4 – 30 minutes

Grade 5 – 35 minutes

Grade 6 – 40 minutes

Grade 7 – 45 minutes

Grade 8 – 45 minutes

ASSESSMENT AND MARKING

A+ (95 – 100 points) – pass with high distinction

A (88 – 94 points) – pass with honour

B (70 – 87 points) – pass with credit

C (60 – 69 points) – pass satisfactory

D (50 – 59 points) – not satisfactory

E (0 – 49 points) – failed

Each Candidate must choose from the Orchestral Percussion Syllabus and present for examination 6 Pieces and improvisation:

- RUDIMENTAL SNARE Drum Piece – 10 points
- CONCERT SNARE Drum Piece – 15 points
- MALLET Piece 1 – 15 points
- MALLET Piece 2 – 15 points
- TIMPANI Piece – 20 points
- MULTI-PERCUSSION Piece – 20 points
- IMPROVISATION – 5 points

In section **Keyboard Percussion from grade 3 to grade 8** Mallet Piece 1 should be played with two mallets and Mallet Piece 2 should be chosen and played from the list of pieces with 3 or 4 mallets. Technical works (scales, studies, exercises) must be selected by teacher and related to the pieces performed. Technical works are not included in APA exams.

HOW TO ENTER FOR APA GRADE EXAM

Exams can be taken online, or at APA studio (143 Wells Street, South Melbourne, VIC) or at other venues. Examiner will be able to come and take exams at schools, however with enough candidates, no less than 6 candidates on the day of exam. School should be responsible for providing quiet space, percussion instruments, piano, and sound system.

To enrol in APA Grade exam please download enrolment form on the APA website www.australianpercussionacademy.com.au in section APA Exams.

Please select Grade to make payment by clicking and following link on APA website in section APA Exams.

2023 EXAM FEES

Please, note - the price is the same for live or online exams, as well as for Grade exams in sections Keyboard Percussion ONLY and Snare Drum ONLY.

Preliminary Grade – \$121 (incl. GST)

Grade 1 – \$121

Grade 2 – \$121

Grade 3 – \$132

Grade 4 – \$143

Grade 5 – \$143

Grade 6 – \$143

Grade 7 – \$165

Grade 8 – \$187

Closing dates for enrolment in live exams are one month before the dates of the exam. **There are no closing dates for entry in exams online and candidates can enrol at any time of the year.**

Please contact Australian Percussion Academy via email apa@percussionacademy.com.au if you have questions.

NOTIFICATION ABOUT EXAM DATES AND VENUE

Australian Percussion Academy will give 3-4 weeks' notice to the applicants about time of the live exam. Candidates must be at the venue 10 minutes before their time. APA aims to accommodate any requests by applicants during the registration process.

APA CONTACT DETAILS

Australian Percussion Academy Pty Ltd.
Address: Level 1, 143 Wells Street, South Melbourne, VIC 3205
Contact: Sergei Golovko, Director APA
Phone: 0411 514 795
Email: apa@percussionacademy.com.au
Website: www.australianpercussionacademy.com