

Voice for Life chorister awards Syllabus – 2021 onwards

Gold Award Unaccompanied Plainsong Psalms

The unaccompanied psalms at Gold level are designed to assess whether the candidate can maintain pitch over an extended melodic line, whilst reading more complicated pointing. They will also be assessed on musical shaping, clarity and natural cadence of the text, tone quality and all the other elements essential to a really good performance.

In the exam, the accompanist or examiner can give the key chord and starting note, but no more than that. The candidate will be expected to set an appropriate tempo and to establish the overall tonality of the music from there onwards.

Help with the notation and performance of plainsong psalms can be found on the RSCM Showbie training classes online. See the RSCM website for class codes and information about how to access them.

It is not compulsory to perform these short examples from memory, but it is possible that doing so will result in a better sense of communication in the performance.

A greyscale, printer-friendly version can be found **here**.

2.1 - Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

VIII.1



- 1. THE LORD is my **shep**-herd: therefore can **I** lack no-thing.
- He shall feed me in a green *pas*-ture : and lead me forth beside the wa-*ters* of com-fort.
- 3. He shall convert my **soul**: and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, **for** his Name's sake.
- 4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no *e*-vil: for thou art with me; thy rod and the *stäff* com-fort, me
- 5. Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that **trou**-ble_me: thou hast anointed my head with oil, | and my **cup** shall be full.
- 6. But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my *life*: and I will dwell in the house of the *Lord* for e-ver.

Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son**: and **to** the Ho-ly, Ghost;

2.2 - Psalm 70

Deus in adjutorium

11.1



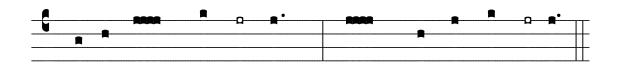
- HASTE THEE, O God, to de-*liv*-er_me: make haste to help *me*, O Lord.
- 2. Let them be ashamed and confounded that seek after my **soul**: let them be turned backward and put to confusion that wish **me** e-vil.
- 3. Let them for their regard be soon brought to **shame**: that cry over **me**, There, there.
- 4. But let all those that seek thee be joyful and glad in **thee**: and let all such as delight in thy salvation say alway, | The Lord **be** prai-sed.
- 5. As for me, I am poor and in **mi**-se_ry: haste thee un-**to** me, O God.
- 6. Thou art my helper, and my re-*deem*-er:O Lord, make no *long* tar_ry-ing.

Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son**: and to **the** Ho_ly Ghost;

2.3 - Psalm 82 (om.5-6)

Deus stetit

VIII.2



- GOD STAND-eth in the congregation of *prin*-ces: he is a *Judge* a-mong gods.
- 2. How long will ye give wrong judge-ment : and accept the persons of the un-god-ly?
- 3. Defend the poor and **fath**-er_less: see that such as are in need and neces-**si**-ty have right.
- 4. Deliver the outcast and **poor**: save them from the hand of *the* **un**-god-ly.
- 7. But ye shall die like *men*: and fall like one *of* the prin-ces.
- 8. Arise, O God, and judge thou the *earth*: for thou shalt take all heathen to *thine* in-he-ri_tance.

Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son**: and **to** the Ho-ly_Ghost;

2.4 - Psalm 93

Dominus regnavit

VIII.2



- 1. THE LORD is King, and hath put on glorious ap-pa-rel: the Lord hath put on his apparel, and gird-ed him-self with_strength.
- 2. He hath made the round world so **sure**: that it can-**not** be mo-ved.
- 3. Ever since the world began hath thy seat been pre-*par-*ed : thou art from *ev*-er-last-ing.
- 4. The floods are risen, O Lord, | the floods have lift up their **voice**: the **floods** lift up their waves.
- 5. The waves of the sea are mighty, and rage *hor*-ri_bly: but yet the Lord, who dwelleth on *high*, is might-i_er.
- 6. Thy testimonies, O Lord, are very *sure*: holiness becometh thine *house* for ev-er.

Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son**: and **to** the Ho-ly_Ghost;

2.5 - Psalm 127

Nisi Dominus

11.1



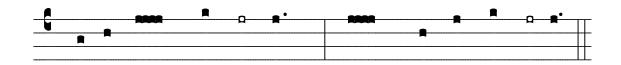
- 1. EX-CEPT the Lord build the **house**: their labour is but lost **that** build it.
- Except the Lord keep the *ci*-ty:the watch-man wa-*keth* but in vain.
- 3. It is but lost labour that ye haste to rise up early, | and so late take rest, and eat the bread of *care*-ful_ness: for so he giveth his *be*-lov_ed sleep.
- 4. Lo, children and the fruit of the **womb**: are an heritage and gift that com-**eth** of the Lord.
- 5. Like as the arrows in the hand of the *gi*-ant: even so are the *yöung* chil-dren.
- 6. Happy is the man that hath his quiver **full** of them: they shall not be ashamed when they speak with their ene-**mies** in the gate.

Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son**: and to **the** Ho_ly Ghost;

2.6 - Psalm 150

Laudate Dominum

VIII.2



- O PRAISE God in his *ho*-li_ness:
 praise him in the firmament *of* his pow-er.
- Praise him in his noble *acts*:praise him according to his ex-*cel*-lent great-ness.
- 3. Praise him in the sound of the *trum*-pet: praise him up-*on* the lute and harp.
- 4. Praise him in the cymbals and *dan*-ces: praise him up-*on* the strings and _pipe.
- 5. Praise him upon the well-tuned *cym*-bals : praise him upon the *löud* cym-bals.
- 6. Let every thing that hath *breath*:- - praise the Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son** : and **to** the Ho-ly_Ghost;