

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.

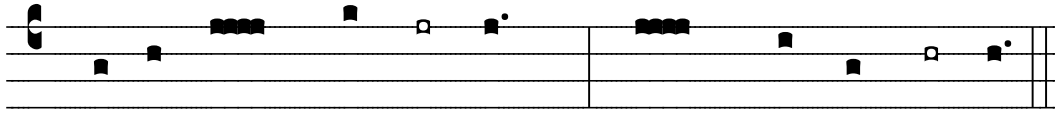
It is not compulsory to perform these short examples from memory, but it is possible that doing so will result in a better sense of communication in the performance.

A greyscale, printer-friendly version can be found [here](#).

2.2 – Psalm 70

Deus in adiutorium

II.1



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 always, | 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.

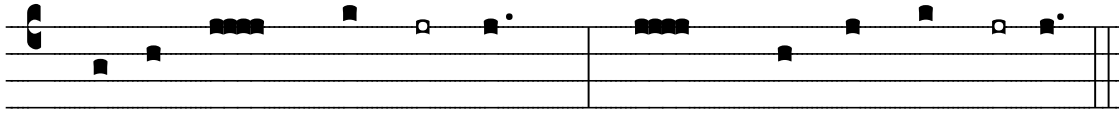
Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son** :
and to **the** Ho_{ly} Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever **shall** be :
world without **end**. A-men.

2.3 – Psalm 82 (om.5-6)

Deus stetit

VIII.2



1. 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.

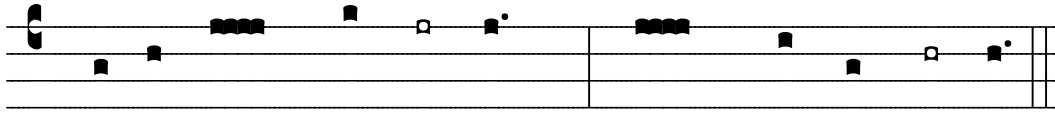
Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son** :
and **to** the Ho-ly-Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever **shall** be :
world with-**out** end. A-men.

2.5 – Psalm 127

Nisi Dominus

II.1



1. EX-CEPT the Lord build the **house** :
their labour is but lost **that** build it.
2. 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;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever **shall** be :
world without **end**. A-men.

