

Selection guidance for 'Own Choice' Repertoire

The criteria below are intended as guidance rather than a checklist.

Own-choice repertoire should be of an appropriate level of musical and technical difficulty for the Award. A suitable piece will almost certainly **not** demonstrate every characteristic listed. When selecting repertoire you should consider the difficulty of the piece holistically and arrive at a balanced overview.

Element	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Pitch – Melodic shapes	• Mostly stepwise movement and simple melodic shapes • Some small leaps, with occasional larger intervals • Melodic patterns generally predictable	• Greater variety of melodic movement • More frequent leaps within the octave • Some less predictable passages	• Substantial variety of melodic shapes • Frequent and/or larger leaps • Chromatic movement, augmented/diminished intervals or less predictable tonal patterns
Pitch – Vocal range	• Approximately an octave, with occasional extension beyond this • Most of the piece may lie comfortably within the central part of the voice	• Approximately an octave to a 10th/11th • Some sections requiring use of the upper and/or lower extremes	• A wide vocal range, approaching or exceeding an octave and a half • Frequent movement between registers and/or sustained notes and phrases towards the extremes
Rhythm and metre	• Mainly straightforward rhythms • Straightforward note values, rests and metres • Some syncopation or dotted rhythms may occur • Unchanged metre	• Greater rhythmic complexity/variety • Faster-moving rhythms requiring more dexterity • More frequent changes of rhythmic pattern • Changing metre	• Complex and varied rhythmic language • Frequent rapid passages • Sustained syncopation • Irregular or changing metres • Complex subdivisions • Cross-rhythmic effects or rhythms which do not closely follow the text
Phrase length	• Predominantly short • Clear opportunities to breathe • Generally regular	• Longer phrases requiring more deliberate breath planning • Some irregularity of phrase length	• Long and/or structurally complex phrases requiring sophisticated breath management • Breathing may need to be planned around both musical structure and text, with some phrases demanding considerable breath control

Element	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Dynamics	• Clear basic dynamic contrasts • Changes generally coincide with obvious musical phrases	• Wider and more frequently varied dynamic range • More frequent dynamic changes, including graduated changes	• Sophisticated dynamic shaping • Wide dynamic range • Rapid or subtle changes • Dynamics should contribute significantly to interpretation
Tempo / tempo changes	• A steady tempo at a reasonable pace • One straightforward tempo change and/or simple ritardando/accelerando	• Faster or slower tempo which provides vocal challenge • Greater variety of tempo, including more significant changes • Expressive flexibility	• Sophisticated tempo relationships and expressive flexibility • Several tempo changes, changes of character or passages requiring particularly secure internal pulse
Musical structure	• Simple, clear structure, such as binary, or verse-and-chorus forms	• More extended or less immediately predictable structures • Contrasting sections or more complex phrase structures	• Complex or extended structures • Significantly contrasting sections • Through-composed writing
Text / word setting	• Generally straightforward • In English or one of the commonly used Latin texts (eg Sanctus) • Largely syllabic word-setting • Repetition of words or phrases	• More varied text-setting • Some melismas • Longer phrases • Less obvious relationships between words and musical phrases • Text in Latin (other than commonly used texts)	• More demanding text-setting • Extended melismas • Rapid and/or sustained lines • Language other than English or Latin
Musical independence	• The musical line may be supported significantly by the accompaniment/other voice parts	• Some support from the accompaniment/other vocal parts • Some independence required	• A high degree of independence • Sustain of an individual vocal line against complex accompaniment, unusual harmonic contexts and/or unpredictable entries