

## **AURAL TESTS: included in the Practical exams for all subjects**

Listening lies at the heart of all good music-making. Developing aural awareness is fundamental to musical training because having a ‘musical ear’ impacts on all aspects of musicianship. Singing, both silently in the head and out loud, is one of the best ways to develop the ‘musical ear’. It connects the internal imagining of sound, the ‘inner ear’, with the external creation of it, without the necessity of mechanically having to ‘find the note’ on an instrument (important though that connection is). By integrating aural activities in imaginative ways in the lesson, preparation for the aural tests within an exam will be a natural extension of what is already an essential part of the learning experience.

### **In the exam**

Aural tests are an integral part of all Practical graded exams.

The examiner will be ready to prompt, if necessary, where there is hesitation. For any test that requires a sung response, pitch rather than vocal quality is the object. The examiner will be happy to adapt to the vocal range of the candidate, whose responses may be sung to any vowel (or consonant followed by a vowel), hummed or whistled (and at a different octave, if appropriate).

### **Marking scheme**

Information on how the aural tests are assessed can be found in the guide for candidates, teachers and parents, *These Music Exams*, available to download from [www.abrsm.org/exams](http://www.abrsm.org/exams).

### **Specimen tests**

Examples of the tests are given in *Specimen Aural Tests* and *Aural Training in Practice*, available for purchase from music retailers and from [www.abrsm.org/publications](http://www.abrsm.org/publications).

### **Deaf or hearing-impaired candidates**

Deaf or hearing-impaired candidates may opt to respond to alternative tests in place of the standard tests, if requested at the time of entry. The syllabus for these tests is available free on request from ABRSM (E [accesscoordinator@abrsm.ac.uk](mailto:accesscoordinator@abrsm.ac.uk)). Examples of the alternative tests are available for purchase from Allegro Music (T +44 (0)1885 490375; E [sales@allegro.co.uk](mailto:sales@allegro.co.uk)).

### **Minor modifications (2011)**

There will be minor modifications to some aural tests, taking effect worldwide from 1 January 2011. Full details will be available in July 2010 at [www.abrsm.org/exams](http://www.abrsm.org/exams). Revised editions of *Specimen Aural Tests* and *Aural Training in Practice* will also be issued in mid-2010.