

**THE *NORTHERN LIGHTS*
CANADIAN NATIONAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC**

EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC EDUCATOR DIPLOMA SYLLABUS

“Shaping Canada’s vast musical landscape”

The *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music was founded in February 2002. Its founding members were inspired to produce programs of study serving the needs of Canadian music teachers and their students.

Traditional teaching approaches are being blended with newly developed ideas to offer holistic pedagogical tools, which will raise the level of musical standards throughout our country.

Our members bring a vast wealth of experience, ethics and skill to the programs they have developed and continue to develop. They are highly recognized in their fields as composers, editors, examiners, workshop clinicians, adjudicators, teachers, pedagogues and concert artists.

INTRODUCTION

The *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music has developed its examination programs to provide a maximum amount of curriculum and as much creative flexibility as possible.

The pedagogy curriculum is a unique series of diplomas for all levels of training. Experienced and new teachers will find the *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music pedagogy curriculum to be stimulating and comprehensive.

Each diploma may be built credit by credit, allowing busy studio teachers an opportunity to study while gaining experience.

The Early Childhood Music Education Diploma is a five-credit program designed to develop a comprehensive understanding of pre-school children and music programs. Candidates will study early childhood psychology, available programs and may even develop their own pre-school music program.

The Primary and Elementary Piano Pedagogy Diploma is a five-credit program for the new teacher. The focus of the program is on the beginner piano student through grade two. Candidates delve into method books, repertoire and all areas pertaining to these early years.

The Associate in Piano Pedagogy is a twelve-credit program encompassing performance, pedagogy and musicianship. The Canadian National Conservatory of Music Associate Diploma is unique and develops both skills and applied pedagogy for each course of study.

The Licentiate in Piano Pedagogy is a seven-credit program. The Licentiate Diploma expands on the candidate's repertoire and pedagogy skill. It combines written papers with performance and research to be a truly rewarding and inspiring program.

The Junior and Senior Fellowship Diplomas in Piano Pedagogy are both twelve-credit programs. These diplomas take piano pedagogy to new levels, combining performance and pedagogy research. Candidates will once again expand their repertoire at the junior and senior levels with each of these diplomas.

The *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music is proud to offer these pedagogy diplomas. Teachers and students will both benefit from these unique diplomas. The *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music is proud to offer all teachers, new and experienced, the opportunity to truly enjoy the lifelong study and performance of music.

GENERAL INFORMATION

APPLICATION FORMS:

Please consult current application forms. New application forms are issued for each academic year (September-August). Forms are available online at www.cncm.ca

The current examination fee must accompany each examination application. Payment may be made by **CHEQUE OR ONLINE REGISTRATION**.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Examination deadlines are final and can be found on the current application form. Candidates choosing their own schedule **MUST** contact the CNCM office with schedule requests prior to submitting an application. Applications **MUST** be **filed** a minimum of twelve weeks prior to the requested examination date.

FEE DEFERRALS AND REFUNDS:

Application fees received by CNCM Examinations will not be refunded except as follows:

Health Reasons: Candidates must supply a physician's note to qualify for a refund. An administration fee of \$40.00 will be deducted from the application fee.

If a Candidate decides to cancel an examination, please notify the CNCM Office as a courtesy.

EXAMINATION PERIODS:

Recommended Periods are as follows:

February, May/June, August

If a centre or teacher has a sufficient number of students and wishes to do exams during other periods, the registrar can arrange these. ***Examiner availability will determine whether the selected period can be accommodated.***

EXAMINATION CENTRES:

Written examinations may be taken at any *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music centre. Practical examinations will be given in restricted centres only. These centres will be identified at the discretion of the *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music.

EXAMINATION RESULTS:

Every effort will be made to release examination results as soon as possible after the exam sessions are complete. These results will be returned to the teacher. No results may be obtained by telephone.

ASSESSMENT STANDARDS:

The *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music uses the following marking standards for all examinations:

STANDING	MARKS AWARDED	CRITERIA
First-Class Honours with Distinction	90-100	Exceptional
First-Class Honours	80-89	Well prepared, musical
Honours	70-79	Good preparation with areas needing improvement
Pass	60-69	Many weak areas
Failure	59 and below	Not up to standards

EXAMINER'S EVALUATION:

The examiner's decisions are final. No appeals will be granted.

EXAMINATION CONDUCT:

1. Only the examiner and the candidate are allowed in the examination room.
2. Recording equipment including video cameras is not allowed either inside or outside of the examination room.
3. Photocopies of any examination materials are not allowed in the examination room. This is in accordance with International Copyright Laws. **THE EXAMINER WILL NOT PROCEED WITH THE EXAMINATION IF PHOTOCOPIES ARE PRESENT.**
4. Please organize your musical scores with bookmarks so the examiner may easily find the selected work. Candidates must provide **ORIGINAL** copies of their performance repertoire to the examiner.

REPERTOIRE SELECTIONS:

Repertoire selections may be chosen from any source. Marks will be deducted for each piece below the graded level. The office of *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music may be contacted at anytime to confirm appropriateness of repertoire selections.

REPEATS:

Repeats are discouraged due to time constraints. Candidates should be prepared to play *da capos*. Due to the length and amount of material to be covered during pedagogy examinations, the examiner **MAY NOT** hear complete works. If the examiner needs to stop a candidate during a performance, an attempt will always be made to do so at a logical point.

MEMORIZATION:

Memory is not required for the practical examinations of the Primary Elementary Piano Pedagogy Diploma.

MUSIC EDITIONS:

1. Any standard edition is acceptable.
2. Please study from music editions, which endeavour to present the composer's intentions in the clearest manner.
3. For Baroque and Classical period works, marks will not be deducted for following different dynamic or articulation markings than what appears in the score. Be sure to keep all additions to the score within proper stylistic parameters.

THEORY AND HISTORY CREDITS:

Candidates may transfer credits from a recognized institution towards *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music pedagogy diploma programs. A one-time transfer fee will be charged. Candidates should contact the CNCM Office to request transfer information.

***A copy of the examination results or a transcript of the recognized institution is allowed for proof of credit.**

CANDIDATES MUST COMPLETE THEORY AND HISTORY PREREQUISITES AND CO-REQUISITES WITHIN 5 YEARS OF THE FIRST PRACTICAL EXAMINATION IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THEIR DIPLOMA UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

CANDIDATES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING ALL OF THE REGULATIONS CONCERNING THEIR EXAMINATION **EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC EDUCATION DIPLOMA**

The *Northern Lights* Canadian National Conservatory of Music is proud to offer the Early Childhood Music Education Diploma. This program helps candidates develop strong pedagogy skills necessary to effectively deliver music classes and serves as a firm foundation for all new teachers. The curriculum is a five-credit program combined with an additional fifteen hours of lesson observation time with an experienced group style teacher.

Prerequisites: Grade 8 Theory CNCM

Co-requisites: Grade 9 Theory CNCM

CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS:

Certificates will be awarded after the successful completion of each individual credit.

A **Diploma** will be awarded after the completion of all five credits.

The Five Credits are as follows:

CREDIT REQUIREMENT	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL MARK	MINIMUM MARK
*Credit 1:	Practical Piano Proficiency	100	70
Credit 2:	Philosophy/Psychology of Learning	100	70
Credit 3:	Suzuki and Kodaly Methods	100	70
Credit 4:	Dalcroze and Orff Methods	100	70
Credit 5:	Course of Choice/Development of Own Program	100	70

*Credit one to be successfully completed prior to application for credits two to five.

TIME LIMIT:

The Early Childhood Music Education Diploma must be completed within five years from the date of the candidate's first examination.

APPLICATIONS:

All applications must include the current application form and the necessary fees.

HANDBOOKS:

Candidates must purchase and complete the exercises in the Canadian National Conservatory of Music handbooks for each of the credits three through five. Handbooks two through four are to be submitted to the examiner for marking purposes and will be returned to the candidate with the examination results. Handbook five **MUST** be submitted with the application form to be marked prior to the practical examination.

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE:

Credits must be completed in numerical order.

MINIMUM AGE RESTRICTION: 18 years

CREDIT ONE: PRACTICAL PIANO PROFICIENCY

EXAMINATION LENGTH: 60 minutes

A minimum of 70% is required to pass this examination

PEDAGOGICAL FOCUS: This credit requires general musicianship skills in performance, aural skills, harmonization, improvisation, sight reading, transposition, and vocalization required to accompany and instruct early childhood music classes.

REQUIREMENT	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL MARKS	MINIMUM MARK
Performance	Candidate is required to perform six works.	30	Total: 70
Aural Skills	Grade seven aural skills as required by Canadian National Conservatory of Music.	10	
Harmonization	1. Prepare three folk/children's songs with an improvised accompaniment. 2. Harmonize at sight two melodies.	20	
Improvise	Improvise an accompaniment to a major, a minor, a blues and/or a pentatonic scale.	10	
Sight Reading	Grade seven sight reading as required by Canadian National Conservatory of Music	10	
Transposition	Transpose at sight two different passages.	10	
Vocalization	Grade seven vocalization as required by Canadian National Conservatory of Music	10	

PERFORMANCE: 30 marks

Candidate will perform **SIX** works as follows:

- Three works equivalent to grade six conservatory repertoire from three different historic periods.
- Three arrangements of folk/children's songs of approximately grade six level. These selections **MUST** be written in different keys and time signatures and represent varied styles.

Memory is not required for the performance portion of the proficiency examination.

AURAL SKILLS: 10 marks

Candidates will be tested at the grade seven level of Canadian National Conservatory of Music. Please consult the current Canadian National Conservatory of Music Piano Syllabus.

HARMONIZATION: 20 marks

1. Candidates are required to prepare for performance **THREE** folk/children songs different from those performed in the performance section. The candidate will prepare an improvised accompaniment as follows:

- Using only a melody line
- Chords symbols may be used for harmonization
- The three works must be in different keys
- Accompaniments must demonstrate contrast and be creative

2. Candidates are required to harmonize at sight the following:

- Two different melodies: one in a major key and one in a minor key
- Up to and including three sharps or flats
- Provide an interesting accompaniment using I, IV or V chords
- At least one accompaniment should be in a keyboard style with the chord in the right hand and bass note(s) in the left hand

IMPROVISATION: 10 marks

Candidates will be required to improvise an accompaniment to given scales as follows:

- Major scale; minor scale; blues scale; pentatonic scale
- Provide an interesting and appropriate accompaniment for the purpose of movement, clapping or playing of rhythm instruments within the class

SIGHT READING: 10 marks

Candidates will be tested at the grade seven level of Canadian National Conservatory of Music. Please consult the current Canadian National Conservatory of Music Piano Syllabus.

TRANSPOSITION: 10 marks

Candidates will be required to transpose as follows:

- Two different passages
- Keyboard style of approximately grade three level
- Up or down and major or minor second
- To the dominant or subdominant key

VOCALIZATION: 10 marks

Candidates will be tested at the grade seven level of Canadian National Conservatory of Music. Please consult the current Canadian National Conservatory of Music Piano Syllabus.

CREDIT TWO: PHILOSOPHY/ PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING

EXAMINATION LENGTH: 60 MINUTES

A minimum of 70% is required to pass this examination

PEDAGOGICAL FOCUS: This credit contains the philosophy and psychology of the fundamental theories and studies of learning and behaviour in relation to the teaching of music to pre-school children.

REQUIREMENT	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL MARK	MINIMUM MARKS
Philosophy/Psychology Handbook	Completed handbook submitted at the examination	35	25
Pedagogy Knowledge	Oral presentation/questions	50	33
Pedagogical Tools and Aids	Assessment tools; materials and books.	15	12

PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY HANDBOOK: 35 marks

Candidates must purchase and complete the exercises in the Canadian National Conservatory of Music Philosophy and Psychology Handbook. The handbook is to be submitted to the examiner for marking purposes and will be returned to the candidate with the examination results.

The handbook will include the following:

- Brain Gym™ and usage within the lesson
- Building a resource library
- Differences between a private and group lesson
- Discipline that is appropriate within a group lesson
- Dynamics between student and teacher, parent and teacher, parent and child as relates to lessons and practise
- Evaluation of a program assessing strengths and weaknesses
- Evaluation of student(s) and their placement within a program
- Goals of the program
- How to seek out other resources i.e. associations, colleagues, mentors, organizations, periodicals, teachers.
- Professional conduct on the part of the teacher
- Required reading lists
- Styles of teaching/learning and lesson format
- Suggested further reading
- Tools, resources, aids to achieve these goals
- Understanding of the brain development and learning ability for prescribed age group

PEDAGOGY KNOWLEDGE: 50 marks

Candidates will be required to present approaches, materials, teaching tools, resource books and materials that will demonstrate an understanding of how to teach and interact with students as they apply to the Philosophy and Psychology programs for early childhood music. Topics may include:

- Approaches to lessons and styles of learning as applicable to an individual or group
- Assessment processes of the beginner, special needs and transfer student
- Brain Gym™ and usage within the lesson
- Dealing with parents or primary care-givers and maintaining discipline
- Discipline that is appropriate within a group lesson
- Dynamics of a group class
- How to problem solve and give guidance
- Recognition of limitations of the individual student or group
- Resources i.e. websites, periodicals, organizations, further pursuit of pedagogical training, development of a library, mentors and colleagues
- Setting reasonable expectations, lesson pacing
- Studio management, organization and set-up

PEDAGOGICAL TOOLS AND AIDS: 15 marks

Candidates are required to present and discuss pedagogical tools and aids as follows:

- Associations and support groups within the teaching community
- Periodicals
- Resource books

CREDIT THREE: SUZUKI AND KODALY METHODS

EXAMINATION LENGTH: 60 minutes

A minimum of 70% is required to pass this examination

PEDAGOGICAL FOCUS: This credit contains curriculum for teaching Suzuki and Kodaly Methods for Early Childhood Music Education.

REQUIREMENT	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL MARKS	MINIMUM MARKS
Suzuki and Kodaly Handbook	Completed Suzuki and Kodaly Handbook submitted to the examiner at the examination	35	25
Lesson Demonstration	Sample class presentation	25	18
Pedagogy Knowledge	Oral presentation/questions	25	18
Pedagogy Aids and Tools	Presentation of material and oral discussion	15	12

SUZUKI AND KODALY PEDAGOGY HANDBOOK ONE: 35 MARKS

Candidates must purchase and complete the exercises in the Canadian National Conservatory of Music Suzuki and Kodaly Pedagogy Handbook. The handbook is to be submitted to the examiner for marking purposes and will be returned to the candidate with the examination results.

The handbook will include the following:

- Comparison chart of the programs
- Costs involved – for the parents and for the teacher
- Getting started – details of teacher training/licensing
- History of program; name of founder(s), date and location of origin
- Philosophy and goals of program
- Process and tools used to accomplish these goals
- Required reading lists
- Strengths and weaknesses of programs – candidate’s opinion

LESSON DEMONSTRATION: 25 MARKS

Candidate must present an oral presentation for **EITHER** Suzuki **OR** Kodaly programs as follows:

- Cost
- Demonstration lesson: with the examiner. Candidates are encouraged to include children in the demonstration lesson.
- Goals: short and long term
- Objectives pertinent to the program
- Procedure: lesson plans, activities, topics
- Progress: short and long term goals for each skill area

PEDAGOGY KNOWLEDGE: 25 MARKS

Candidates will be required to present approaches, materials and teaching tools as they apply to Suzuki and Kodaly programs for early childhood music. Topics may include the following:

- Advantages
- Approaches to lessons
- History
- Learning approaches
- Lesson pacing: for slow, medium and fast paced student abilities. Give consideration for “Special Needs” children.
- Philosophies
- Resources i.e. websites, periodicals, organizations, further pursuit of pedagogical training, development of a library, mentors and colleagues
- Rhythm
- Styles of teaching/learning
- Teacher-parent relationship
- The physical studio set-up: equipment, teaching aids, library
- Vocalization
- Weaknesses and compensations

PEDAGOGICAL TOOLS AND AIDS: 15 MARKS

Candidates are required to present and discuss pedagogical tools and aids as follows:

- Games
- Instruments
- Other teaching aids and materials
- Progress charts for the classroom
- Record books
- Studio award/reward systems
- Support texts and handbooks

CREDIT FOUR: DALCROZE AND ORFF METHODS

EXAMINATION LENGTH: 60 minutes

A minimum of 70% is required to pass this examination

PEDAGOGICAL FOCUS: This credit contains curriculum for teaching Dalcroze and Orff Methods for Early Childhood Music Education.

REQUIREMENT	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL MARKS	MINIMUM MARKS
Dalcroze and Orff Handbook	Completed Dalcroze and Orff Handbook submitted to the examiner at the examination	35	25
Lesson Demonstration	Sample class presentation	25	18
Pedagogy Knowledge	Oral presentation/questions	25	18
Pedagogy Aids and Tools	Presentation of material and oral discussion	15	12

DALCROZE AND ORFF PEDAGOGY HANDBOOK ONE: 35 MARKS

Candidates must purchase and complete the exercises in the Canadian National Conservatory of Music Dalcroze and Orff Pedagogy Handbook. The handbook is to be submitted to the examiner for marking purposes and will be returned to the candidate with the examination results.

The handbook will include the following:

- Comparison chart of the programs
- Costs involved – for the parents and for the teacher
- Getting started – details of teacher training/licensing
- History of program; name of founder(s), date and location of origin
- Philosophy and goals of program
- Process and tools used to accomplish these goals
- Required reading lists
- Strengths and weaknesses of programs – candidate’s opinion

LESSON DEMONSTRATION: 25 MARKS

Candidate must present an oral presentation for **EITHER** Dalcroze **OR** Orff programs as follows:

- Cost
- Demonstration lesson: with the examiner. Candidates are encouraged to include children in the demonstration lesson.
- Goals: short and long term
- Objectives pertinent to the program
- Procedure: lesson plans, activities, topics
- Progress: short and long term goals for each skill area

PEDAGOGY KNOWLEDGE: 25 MARKS

Candidates will be required to present approaches, materials and teaching tools as they apply to Delcroze and Orff methods for early childhood music education. Topics may include the following:

- Advantages
- Approaches to lessons
- History
- Learning approaches
- Lesson pacing: for slow, medium and fast paced student abilities. Give consideration for “Special Needs” children.
- Philosophies
- Resources i.e. websites, periodicals, organizations, further pursuit of pedagogical training, development of a library, mentors and colleagues
- Rhythm
- Styles of learning
- Teacher-parent relationship
- The physical studio set-up: equipment, teaching aids, library
- Vocalization
- Weaknesses and compensations

PEDAGOGICAL TOOLS AND AIDS: 15 MARKS

Candidates are required to present and discuss pedagogical tools and aids as follows:

- Games
- Instruments
- Other teaching aids and materials
- Progress charts for the classroom
- Record books
- Studio award/reward systems
- Support texts and handbooks

CREDIT FIVE: COURSE OF CHOICE/DEVELOPMENT OF OWN COURSE

EXAMINATION LENGTH: 60 minutes

A minimum of 70% is required to pass this examination

PEDAGOGICAL FOCUS: To provide an extensive overview of an existing early childhood education program such as Kindermusik, Music for Young Children®, Musikgarten, Yamaha **OR** candidates may develop their own early childhood music program.

REQUIREMENT	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL MARKS	MINIMUM MARKS
Candidate Prepared Document	Candidate prepared document submitted with the candidate's application form	35	25
Lesson Demonstration	Sample class presentation	25	18
Pedagogy Knowledge	Oral presentation/questions	25	18
Observation Log	Written observation of classes in progress	15	10.5

CANDIDATE PREPARED DOCUMENT: 35 marks

The candidate prepared document is to be submitted to the Office of the Registrar for marking purposes with the application form and will be returned to the candidate with the examination results.

The candidate prepared document will include the following:

- Comparison chart of all previously studied methods **including** the credit selected for credit five
- Costs involved – for the parents and for the teacher
- Getting started – details of teacher training/licensing
- History of program, name of founder(s), date and location of origin
- Observation Log
- Philosophy and goals of program
- Process and tools used to accomplish these goals
- Required reading lists
- Strengths and weaknesses of program – candidate's opinion
- Sustainability of program especially own program
- How program will move to a private style lesson
- When is it time to move to private style

LESSON DEMONSTRATION: 25 marks

Candidate must present an oral presentation for **EITHER** selected program **OR** candidate's own program as follows:

- Cost
- Demonstration lesson: with the examiner. Candidates are encouraged to include children in the demonstration lesson
- Goals: short and long term
- Objectives pertinent to the program
- Procedure: lesson plans, activities, topics
- Progress: short and long term goals for each skill area
- Continuity & reinforcement of concepts

NOTE: Skype examination format - demonstration lessons should take place in the studio where lessons will be conducted

PEDAGOGY KNOWLEDGE: 25 marks

Candidates will be required to present approaches, materials and teaching tools as they apply to as Kindermusik, Music for Young Children™, Musikgarten, Yamaha **OR** the candidate's own early childhood music program.

Topics may include the following:

- Advantages
 - Approaches to lessons
 - Continuity of materials and how concepts are reinforced at lesson and subsequently
 - How to develop a good lesson plan, what to look for in a good lesson plan
 - History
 - Learning approaches
 - Lesson pacing: for slow, medium and fast paced student abilities. Give consideration for "Special Needs" children.
 - Philosophies
 - Resources i.e. websites, periodicals, organizations, up grading pedagogical training, development of own library, mentors and colleagues
 - Rhythm
 - Styles of learning, how to manage multiple learning styles within a group lesson situation, parents may have different learning style to their child/ren
 - Teacher-parent relationship, involvement and role in the group lesson
 - Management of situations with students /parents during the lesson
 - The physical studio set-up: equipment, teaching aids, library
 - Vocalization
- Weaknesses and compensations, sustainability of the program challenges of developing own program (if applicable)

OBSERVATION LOG: 15 marks

Observation log of a minimum of fifteen hours of group lessons attended by the candidate as follows:

- Attend a minimum of two consecutive lessons with the same group of children so as to observe progress of students and follow-up to activities
- Attend three entire successive lessons
- Attend classes of a minimum of two different age groups
- In the case of the candidate developing their own program, observation should be of programs which demonstrate similar styles of teaching, tools and topics
- In the case of candidates who do not have access to early childhood music programs, a nursery school setting may be substituted. The candidate **MUST** contact the registrar before proceeding with this substitution and philosophies.

The log should include information about process, tools and resources used, concepts taught and student responses.