



MUSICEA ARTS
AND CULTURE
COUNCIL

CLASSICAL GUITAR

SYLLABUS

Grade 1

January 2027



Foreword



Welcome to the Musicea Arts and Culture Council

Musicea Arts and Culture Council is a non-profit international educational institution incorporated as a Section 8 Company of the Indian Companies Act, 2013. The primary objective of incorporation is to prepare syllabi, offer qualifications, assist in careers and jobs, recognise, award and honour achievements and promote young candidates in music, dance, theatre, language, arts and sports. Musicea Arts and Culture Council is a college of national and international educators sharing the dream of creating a world-class international institution based in India to provide opportunities, solutions and recognition to both students and teachers.

Musicea Arts and Culture Council offer different international graded levels of graded syllabi and assessment. Several innovative and path-breaking measures implemented by the college council make it inclusive, holistic, and apt for 21st-century music education. The pioneering initiatives are transforming the lives of thousands of educators and students. Musicea Arts and Culture Council initiatives play an active role in developing a nation by assisting millions of aspiring students and teachers. Several initiatives are in place to protect, serve, and empower the teachers and students. Member teachers and students receive a series of direct benefits, honour and advantages from the Musicea Arts and Culture Council. Two of the many pioneering initiatives are students receive Scholarships and teachers receive Pension Benefit Schemes.

Musicea Arts and Culture Council is also committed to preserving, nurturing, and promoting the rich heritage and traditions of Indian and World Music and the Arts. The syllabi are refreshing and educational. All aspects of the syllabi are in sequential order concerning the academic merit underlying each requirement. The selection of pieces and songs is a meticulous and progressive process. Breaking from the narrow-based idea of a fixed book for examination, Musicea Arts and Culture Council broadens the scope of learning and performing by prescribing a suggestive list of all-time favourite pieces and songs. Education is beyond the scope of one book and format. 21st-century learning demands a fun-filled, open and broad-spectrum far beyond forced education. The Free Choice option allows a candidate to perform pre-approved self-composition or arrangement. Modern subjects encourage a candidate to embellish and improvise. The Musicianship is a pioneering inclusion that makes the examination more interesting. Musicea Arts and Culture Council have been at the forefront in preserving, nurturing and promoting music and the arts.

Musicea Arts and Culture Council Qualification

Musicea Arts and Culture Council qualifications are comprehensive and cater for those interested academically or as a performer. The lists contain works ranging from early times to up-to-date contemporary examples, plus own choice options.

All works are carefully selected and sequentially graded. Teachers preparing students for Musicea Arts and Culture Council qualifications will have a clear and detailed outline to develop their lessons. Musicea Arts and Culture Council qualification make provision for different abilities and provide a goal for candidates. Examination reports reflect a reliable assessment of progress and, by comments and marks, assist individual development. However, there are many ways to improve the skills and, candidates should look beyond the scope of only assessment-related studies.

In each Musicea syllabus, teachers will find the requisites of a training system for their students through the different Levels and Grades. The aim is to encourage personal development in music and dance in each individual. It is the wish of the Musicea to support teachers and their students in developing their skills, acquisition of knowledge and enhanced self-confidence according to age and experience, not to discourage and set impossible or unrealistic standards.

Examination Module

Musicea offers a diverse range of examination modules. A candidate is free to select any of the examination modules according to their choice, objective and strength. A candidate may or may not switch the examination module in the next higher level or grade examination. Followings are the examination module:

- Online and Physical candidates may choose to appear for either Musicea Regular or Musicea Recital examination.
- For the Musicea Recital examination, a candidate (both Online and Physical) will perform FIVE pieces or songs.
- Musicea Regular examination for Online and Physical is slightly different.
 - For Musicea Regular Online examination, a candidate should prepare THREE pieces or songs, Technical Exercise, Study, and Musical Knowledge.
 - For Musicea Regular Physical examination, a candidate should prepare THREE pieces or songs, Technical Exercise, Musicianship or Study, and Musical Knowledge.

Musicea Arts and Culture Council offer several unique, pioneering and groundbreaking services. Musicea Arts and Culture Council offer **scholarships** to examination candidates. The feature of the scholarship is a historical first offered by Musicea Arts and Culture Council.

Musicea Arts and Culture Council, a pioneer for Online Music Exams are offering online services since 2018. Musicea offers both Live Stream Exams and Recorded Exams. Musicea realised the future of digital services and online education back in 2017 and began digital internet-based offerings and online music exams. Musicea is a pioneer for online graded music exams and the monthly online digital concert, Musicea Yuva Festival.

Classical Guitar

Syllabus, January 2027

Grade 1

Performance

A candidate may perform on a nylon-string guitar. The performance must be presented using fingerstyle technique, and the use of a footrest or footstool is mandatory. The duration of each piece must not exceed two minutes.

Candidates should select pieces from the prescribed list. The selected repertoire may consist of works by different composers, or standard pieces published by reputed publishers, or one pre-approved self-composition. No more than one piece by the same composer may be selected.

Study 1	Dionisio Aguado	39 Progressive Solos Hal Leonard
Air in A-Flat Major	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Fingerpicking Mozart Hal Leonard
Peter and the Wolf	Sergei Prokofiev	Great Classical Themes Hal Leonard
Andantino in C major	Matteo Carcassi	The Soul of the Classical Guitar Chateau
Hesleyside Reel	Traditional	Guitar Grade 1
Scene from Swan Lake, No.1	Peter Tchaikovsky	Guitar Grade 1
Morning Has Broken	Traditional	Guitar Grade 1
Aloutte	Traditional	Guitar Grade 1
Jolly Old Saint Nicholas	Traditional	Guitar Grade 1

Technical Exercise

Play the Technical Exercise section from memory. Tempo markings are suggestive. A candidate may play little slower or faster. Attempt to play each note evenly in time, with clarity and precision.

1. Scale

Tempo: Legato: MM ♩ = 80 (two quavers)

Major: C, G, F	1 octave	<i>im</i> or <i>ma</i> fingering: apoyando or tirando
Minor: Am, Dm, Em (harmonic minor)	1 octave	<i>im</i> or <i>ma</i> fingering: apoyando or tirando

2. Arpeggio

Tempo: Legato: MM ♩ = 80 (two quavers)

C, G, F, Am	1 octave	<i>tirando (pima)</i>
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3. Chord Shape

F, E, A, D, C7, B7	single strum
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Apoyando and Tirando Playing Techniques

Apoyando (Rest Stroke)

The finger plucks the string and comes to rest on the **adjacent string**. It produces a **fuller, stronger and more focused tone** and is commonly used for melody lines, scales and passages requiring greater projection.

Tirando (Free Stroke)

The finger plucks the string and moves freely **without resting on the adjacent string**. It produces a **lighter, more open tone** and is commonly used for chords, arpeggios and polyphonic playing.

Technique Application

Students should develop both **Apoyando** and **Tirando** techniques and learn to select the appropriate stroke according to the musical context, tone and required projection.

Remember:

Apoyando = Rest Stroke

Tirando = Free Stroke

Musicianship

Test 1. Clapping:

The examiner will display a four bar rhythm in common or $\frac{3}{4}$ time, and the candidate is expected to slowly clap the rhythm with a steady pulse. The beats include paired quavers, crotchet, minim, dotted minim, crotchet rest, and minim rest. For example:



Test 2. Echo Clap:

The examiner will clap a short rhythm (four bars) and the candidate is expected to clap the rhythm pattern back to the examiner. A second attempt will be allowed if necessary. For example:



Test 3. Visual Intervals:

The examiner will display two pair of notes and will ask the candidate to identify the intervals as either a second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh or octave. For example:



Test 4. Aural Intervals:

The examiner will play two notes, first separately and then together. The candidate is expected to recognize whether the interval is a second or third. For example:



Test 5. Sight Playing:

The examiner will give half a minute to look at a passage (four bars) in the keys of C major, or G major. In that time, the candidate may play parts of the passage. After that, the examiner will ask to play the passage. For example:



Study

A candidate may select a technically challenging etude, exercise, piece, or song as Study. The length (the number of bars) of the Study will be equal, a little more but no less than the pieces or songs performed. As a general guideline, the standard of a Study will be that of a piece or song one level or a grade higher. A candidate may select the Study from the prescribed list of pieces or songs one level or a grade higher. The duration of the piece should not exceed two minutes.

Musical Knowledge

The examiner will ask the candidate questions on the following aspects from the list of performed pieces (excluding study list, if any).

The examiner will ask **four questions** on the following aspects. The question include knowledge of the previous grades. The following are add-ons.

- The notes, rests, signs, terms and titles of pieces or songs
- Key or tonality

For example:

Question: Tell the time signature of the second piece.

Example answer: It is in 4 time.

Question: Name the scale of the third piece.

Example answer: A minor.

Question: How many beat is this note?

Example answer: 1 beat.

Question: Name this note.

Example answer: B.

Question: Name this sign.

Example answer: Flat sign, sharp sign, natural sign.

Question: Explain this dynamic marking.

Example answer: p means piano- soft, f means forte- loud.

Classical Guitar Skill Guide

The criteria include skills of the previous grades. The following are add-ons:

- Tirando (free stroke) and apoyando (rest stroke)
- Right-hand finger alternation: **i-m, m-a**
- Basic arpeggio patterns: **p-i-m-a**
- Scales in first position
- Chords fingered within the first position
- Simple melody with bass/chord accompaniment
- Basic legato and articulation
- Dynamics and tone production
- Correct classical guitar posture and hand position
- Coordination and rhythmic control

Additional Repertoire

Lullaby No.1	Isaias Savio	Classical Guitar, Level 1, RCM
Menuet	Shawn Bell	Classical Guitar, Level 1, RCM
What If a Day, a Month, or a Year	Anonymous	Classical Guitar, Level 1, RCM
Vacances	Yvon Demillac	Classical Guitar, Level 1, RCM
Ecossaise op. 33, no. 2	Mauro Giuliani	Classical Guitar, Level 1, RCM

Classical Guitar, Repertoire and Etudes, Level 1, RCM

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