

## DESCANT (Soprano) RECORDER (Subject Code: 38): Grades 1 to 5 only

This syllabus for Descant Recorder is valid from January 2014. The next edition will be published in July 2017. Advance notice of any planned changes to the Descant Recorder requirements from 2018 will be available at [www.abrsm.org/descantrecorder](http://www.abrsm.org/descantrecorder) from January 2017.

### Descant (Soprano) Recorder GRADE 1

**THREE PIECES:** one chosen by the candidate from each of the three Lists, A, B and C:

#### LIST A

- 1 **Anon.** Menuet. No. 10 from } *Spielbuch for Descant Recorder, arr. Hechler*
- 2 **Phalèse** Branle or Gaillarde mon plaisir. No. 29 or No. 45 from } (Moeck 2076)
- 3 **Daquin** Rigaudon. No. 10 from } *Baroque Recorder Anthology, Vol. 1 (Soprano) (Schott ED 13134)*
- 4 **Handel** Menuett. No. 12 from } *Baroque Recorder Anthology, Vol. 1 (Soprano) (Schott ED 13134)*
- 5 **Handel** Gavotte, arr. Bergmann. *First Repertoire for Descant Recorder, arr. Adams (Faber)*
- 6 **T. Morley** Now is the month of Maying } *Time Pieces for Descant/Soprano Recorder, Vol. 1, arr. Bennetts and*
- 7 **Purcell** Fairest Isle (from *King Arthur*) } *Bowman (ABRSM)*
- 8 **Trad. American** Amazing Grace } *Don't You Just Love These Tunes for Descant Recorder, arr. Haughton*
- 9 **Trad. Irish** Cockles and Mussels } (Kevin Mayhew)

#### LIST B

- 1 **Brian Bonsor** Scherzino or Legend. No. 4 or No. 5 from *The Really Easy Recorder Book (Faber)*
- 2 **Curtin** Theme from 'The Flintstones'. *Don't You Just Love These Tunes for Descant Recorder, arr. Haughton (Kevin Mayhew)*
- 3 **Terry Gilkyson** The Bare Necessities (from *The Jungle Book*). *Winner Scores All for Descant Recorder, arr. Lawrance (Brass Wind: piano accomp. published separately)*
- 4 **Paul Harris** Sunny Spells. *First Repertoire for Descant Recorder, arr. Adams (Faber)*
- 5 **Alan Haughton** One Step at a Time or Calm Seas: from *Fun Club for Descant Recorder, Grade 0-1 (Kevin Mayhew: piano accomp. and part published in Teacher Copy)*
- 6 **Ridout** Linger by the Wayside or Stepping Out Along a Road: No. 2 or No. 6 from *A Day in the Country for Descant Recorder (ABRSM)*
- 7 **Schumann** Soldiers' March (from *Album for the Young, Op. 68*). *Time Pieces for Descant/Soprano Recorder, Vol. 1, arr. Bennetts and Bowman (ABRSM)*
- 8 **Sarah Watts** Humdinger Hoedown: from *Fresh Air for Descant Recorder (Kevin Mayhew)*
- 9 **Pam Wedgwood** Periwinkle Waltz or Dreaming: from *Really Easy Jazzin' About for Descant Recorder (Faber)*

#### LIST C

- 1 **Kathryn Bennetts** Spring Song. *Time Pieces for Descant/Soprano Recorder, Vol. 1, arr. Bennetts and Bowman (ABRSM)*
- 2 **van Eyck** Silvester inde Morgenstont (Theme only) or Onder de Linde groene (Theme only). No. 3 or No. 9 from *van Eyck Der Fluyten Lust-hof: The Beginners' Collection (XYZ 1042)*
- 3 **Fetzen** Moderato in G. No. 4 from } *50 Graded Studies for Recorder (Faber)*
- 4 **Paul Harris** King Richard, his Delight. No. 1 from }
- 5 **Trad. Jamaican** Linstead Market. No. 31 from *50 for Fun, arr. Bonsor (Schott ED 12269)*
- 6 **Trad. Welsh** Men of Harlech. *Winner Scores All for Descant Recorder, arr. Lawrance (Brass Wind)*
- 7 **Sarah Watts** Study in Green: from *Fresh Air for Descant Recorder (Kevin Mayhew)*

**AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE\*:** see pp. 88 and 89

\* Published by ABRSM (Scale requirements, Specimen Sight-Reading Tests, Specimen Aural Tests)

*Descant (Soprano) Recorder GRADE 1*

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**SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS\*:** from memory, to be played both slurred and tongued in the following keys:

C, D, F majors (one octave)

**Scales:** in the above keys

**Arpeggios:** the common chords of the above keys for the range indicated

**SIGHT-READING\*:** a short piece in simple time within the keys, notes and overall range of the scale requirements set for this grade. Some accidentals, dotted and tied notes may be included. See also p. 9.

## Descant (Soprano) Recorder GRADE 2

**THREE PIECES:** one chosen by the candidate from each of the three Lists, A, B and C:

### LIST A

- 1 **Anon. English** Corranto. No. 35 from } *Spielbuch for Descant Recorder, arr. Hechler (Moeck 2076)*
- 2 **Handel** Gavotte. No. 39 from }
- 3 **Holborne** The Night Watch or The Honie-suckle. No. 5 from *First Repertoire Pieces for Recorder (Descant), arr. Rosenberg (Boosey & Hawkes)*
- 4 **North** North's Maggot. No. 26 from } *Baroque Recorder Anthology, Vol. 1 (Soprano) (Schott ED 13134)*
- 5 **Playford** The British Toper. No. 9 from }
- 6 **M. Praetorius** Volte (from *Terpsichore*), arr. Bullard } *Time Pieces for Descant/Soprano Recorder, Vol. 1,*
- 7 **Trad. Provençal** Marcho di Rei, arr. Bullard } *arr. Bennetts and Bowman (ABRSM)*
- 8 **Susato** Parade des bouffons. No. 18 from *The Renaissance Recorder (Descant), arr. Rosenberg (Boosey & Hawkes)*
- 9 **Telemann** Andante (from Partita No. 1) or Pastourelle, arr. Bergmann. *First Repertoire for Descant Recorder, arr. Adams (Faber)*

### LIST B

- 1 **Arlen & Harburg** Over the Rainbow } *All Jazzed Up for Descant Recorder, arr. Parker (Brass Wind)*
- 2 **Jim Parker** Freeway }
- 3 **Burt Bacharach** Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head } *Winner Scores All for Descant Recorder, arr. Lawrence*
- 4 **Schubert** Briar-Rose (Heidenröslein) } *(Brass Wind: piano accomp. published separately)*
- 5 **Brian Bonsor** Caribbean or The Merry-Go-Round. No. 7 or No. 8 from *The Really Easy Recorder Book (Faber)*
- 6 **Humperdinck** Evening Prayer (from *Hansel and Gretel*), arr. Bullard. *Time Pieces for Descant/Soprano Recorder, Vol. 1, arr. Bennetts and Bowman (ABRSM)*
- 7 **Ridout** Up and Down Hill: No. 3 from *A Day in the Country for Descant Recorder (ABRSM)*
- 8 **Geoffry Russell-Smith** That Magic Touch: from *Easy Blue Recorder (Descant) (Universal UE 21354)*
- 9 **Pam Wedgwood** Cat Walk: from *Easy Jazzin' About for Descant Recorder (Faber)*

### LIST C

- 1 **Sally Adams** Allegro vivo. No. 17 from *50 Graded Studies for Recorder (Faber)*
- 2 **Kathryn Bennetts** Pip's Pedal. *Time Pieces for Descant/Soprano Recorder, Vol. 1, arr. Bennetts and Bowman (ABRSM)*
- 3 **Elizabeth Cooper** Dumdiddle Drakes or Diddledum Ducks (*unaccompanied*): No. 4 or No. 5 from *The Woodpecker and Friends for Descant Recorder (Kirklees Music)*
- 4 **van Eyck** Al hebben de Princen haren (Theme and Modo 2 [Var. 1]). No. 27 from *van Eyck Der Fluyten Lust-hof: The Beginners' Collection (XYZ 1042)* or No. 19 from *50 Graded Studies for Recorder (Faber)*
- 5 **Trad. American** Buffalo Girls. *Winner Scores All for Descant Recorder, arr. Lawrence (Brass Wind)*
- 6 **Trad. German** Wanderlied (Wohlauf noch getrunken). No. 29 from *50 for Fun, arr. Bonsor (Schott ED 12269)*
- 7 **Sarah Watts** Study in Blue: from *Fresh Air for Descant Recorder (Kevin Mayhew)*

**AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE\*:** see pp. 88 and 89

**SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS\*:** from memory, to be played both slurred and tongued in the following keys:

- E, A minors (one octave)
- F, G majors (one octave and down to the dominant)
- C major (a twelfth)

**Scales:** in the above keys (minors in natural or harmonic or melodic form at candidate's choice). The pattern for scales of one octave and down to the dominant should follow the example as given below:



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## Descant (Soprano) Recorder GRADE 3

**THREE PIECES:** one chosen by the candidate from each of the three Lists, A, B and C:

### LIST A

- 1 **Anon. English** Watkins Ale. No. 25 from } *Spielbuch for Descant Recorder*, arr. Hechler (Moeck 2076)
- 2 **Handel** Menuett. No. 41 from }
- 3 **attrib. J. S. Bach** March (from *Anna Magdalena's Note Book*). *Aus Notenbüchern des 18 Jahrhunderts for Soprano Recorder*, Vol. 1, arr. Donath (Hofmeister FH2901)
- 4 **Beethoven** Maigesang (Op. 52 No. 4), arr. Bullard } *Time Pieces for Descant/Soprano Recorder*,
- 5 **Susato** Basse danse bergeret (from *Musyck Boexken*), arr. Bullard } Vol. 1, arr. Bennetts and Bowman (ABRSM)
- 6 **Gluck** Aria (from *Orfeo ed Euridice*). *Winner Scores All for Descant Recorder*, arr. Lawrance (Brass Wind: piano accomp. published separately)
- 7 **Haydn** Pastorale: 1st movt from *Partie in G*, arr. Bergmann. *First Repertoire for Descant Recorder*, arr. Adams (Faber)
- 8 **M. Praetorius** La bourrée. No. 17 from *The Renaissance Recorder (Descant)*, arr. Rosenberg (Boosey & Hawkes)
- 9 **Purcell** Rondo (from *The Fairy Queen*). No. 8 from *Baroque Recorder Anthology, Vol. 2 (Soprano)* (Schott ED 13135) or No. 4 from *Purcell A Second Set of Theatre Tunes for Descant Recorder*, arr. Beechey (Schott ED 12294)

### LIST B

- 1 **Paulo Conte** At Sunset. *First Repertoire for Descant Recorder*, arr. Adams (Faber)
- 2 **Alan Haughton** Seven Seas Hornpipe or Stroll On: from *Fun Club for Descant Recorder; Grade 2-3* (Kevin Mayhew: piano accomp. and part published in *Teacher Copy*)
- 3 **Sasha Johnson Manning** A Tale: No. 5 from *A Birthday Garland for Descant Recorder* (Forsyth)
- 4 **Joplin** The Strenuous Life } *Winner Scores All for Descant Recorder*, arr. Lawrance
- 5 **Tchaikovsky** Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy } (Brass Wind: piano accomp. published separately)
- 6 **Bryan Kelly** Air or Song (i): No. 3 or No. 6 from *Globe Theatre Suite for Descant Recorder* (Stainer & Bell H452)
- 7 **Christopher Norton** Marina or Chicago Blues: No. 10 or No. 12 from *Microjazz for Recorder (Descant)* (Boosey & Hawkes)
- 8 **Prokofiev** March (from *Musiques d'enfants*, Op. 65). *Time Pieces for Descant/Soprano Recorder, Vol. 1*, arr. Bennetts and Bowman (ABRSM)
- 9 **Geoffry Russell-Smith** Warm and Cosy or Lumpy Custard Blues: from *Easy Blue Recorder (Descant)* (Universal UE 21354)

### LIST C

- 1 **Peter Bowman** Winter Solstice. *Time Pieces for Descant/Soprano Recorder, Vol. 1*, arr. Bennetts and Bowman (ABRSM)
- 2 **Elizabeth Cooper** Cheeky Sparrow (unaccompanied): No. 8 from *The Woodpecker and Friends for Descant Recorder* (Kirklees Music)
- 3 **van Eyck** Janneman en Alemoer (complete). No. 11 from *van Eyck Der Fluyten Lust-hof: The Beginners' Collection* (XYZ 1042)
- 4 **Jan Nykl** Study in G or Study in C: No. 8 or No. 22 from *35 Studies for Soprano Recorder* (Bärenreiter Praha H7132)
- 5 **Playford** 'Twas within a Furlong of Edinburgh Town. No. 23 from *50 Graded Studies for Recorder* (Faber)
- 6 **Trad. English** Sailor's Hornpipe. No. 47 from *50 for Fun*, arr. Bonsor (Schott ED 12269)
- 7 **Sarah Watts** Study in Orange or Study in Pink: from *Fresh Air for Descant Recorder* (Kevin Mayhew)

**AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE\*:** see pp. 88 and 90

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*Descant (Soprano) Recorder GRADE 3*

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**SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS\*:** from memory, to be played both slurred and tongued in the following keys:

F, G majors; A minor (one octave and down to the dominant)

C, D majors; D, E minors (a twelfth)

**Scales:** in the above keys (minors in harmonic *or* melodic form at candidate's choice). The pattern for scales of one octave and down to the dominant should follow the example as given on p. 14.

**Chromatic Scale:** starting on D (one octave)

**Arpeggios:** the common chords of the above keys for the ranges indicated. The pattern for arpeggios of one octave and down to the dominant should follow the example as given on p. 15.

**SIGHT-READING\*:** a short piece in simple time within the keys, notes and overall range of the scale requirements set up to and including this grade. See also p. 9.

## Descant (Soprano) Recorder GRADE 4

**THREE PIECES:** one chosen by the candidate from each of the three Lists, A, B and C:

### LIST A

- 1 **Aubert** Le Moulinet I and II. Nos 18a and b from } *Baroque Recorder Anthology, Vol. 2 (Soprano) (Schott ED*  
2 **Caix d'Hervelois** Muzette. No. 19 from } 13135)
- 3 **Babell** Air or Giga: 2nd or 4th movt from Sonata No. 3 in G minor (*Doblinger DM1220*)
- 4 **Handel** Rondeau and Gigue (G minor): from *Almira. Handel Ballet Music for Descant Recorder, arr. Bali and Kecskenéti (Editio Musica Budapest Z.14408)*
- 5 **Hook** Allegretto (from Sonata in G, Op. 99 No. 2). *Time Pieces for Descant/Soprano Recorder, Vol. 2, arr. Bennetts and Bowman (ABRSM)*
- 6 **Purcell** Hornpipe (from *The Married Beau*) and Hornpipe (from *The Fairy Queen*). Nos 1 and 8 from *Purcell A Second Set of Theatre Tunes for Descant Recorder, arr. Beechey (Schott ED 12294)*
- 7 **Stölzel** Bist Du bei mir. *World Famous Classics for Recorder, arr. Cowles (Fentone F837-401: piano accomp. published separately, F838-401)*
- 8 **Telemann** La Badinerie Italienne. No. 5 from *Miscellaneous Dances from Telemann's Overtures, Book 1 (Descant), arr. Robinson (Peacock Press PAR116)*
- 9 **Telemann** Siciliana and Allegro: 1st and 2nd movts from Partita No. 2 in G, TWV 41:G2. No. 8 from *First Repertoire Pieces for Recorder (Descant), arr. Rosenberg (Boosey & Hawkes) or Telemann Die kleine Kammermusik: 6 Partien (Amadeus BP 2400 or Bärenreiter HM 47)*

### LIST B

- 1 **Brian Bonsor** Get up and Go! or Waltz for Mo: No. 1 or No. 5 from *Jazzy Recorder 2 (Universal UE 19364)*
- 2 **Colin Cowles** Volting!: from *Power Up! for Recorder (Fentone F870-400)*
- 3 **Fauré** Pavane (Op. 50). *World Famous Classics for Recorder, arr. Cowles (Fentone F837-401: piano accomp. published separately, F838-401)*
- 4 **Sasha Johnson Manning** Cowboys with Lutes: No. 3 from *A Birthday Garland for Descant Recorder (Forsyth)*
- 5 **Bryan Kelly** Jig: No. 4 from *Globe Theatre Suite for Descant Recorder (Stainer & Bell H452)*
- 6 **Lichner** Zu Hause (Op. 134 No. 6). *Time Pieces for Descant/Soprano Recorder, Vol. 2, arr. Bennetts and Bowman (ABRSM)*
- 7 **Christopher Norton** Catwalk: No. 13 from *Microjazz for Recorder (Descant) (Boosey & Hawkes)*
- 8 **Regner** Presto: 3rd movt from *Pfiffikus (Clever Clogs) (Schott OFB 210)*
- 9 **Geoffrey Russell-Smith** Fred 'n' Ginger or Ragtime Razzle: No. 2 or No. 3 from *Jazzy Recorder 1 (Universal UE 18828)*

### LIST C

- 1 **Sally Adams** Fred's Frolic. No. 29 from *50 Graded Studies for Recorder (Faber)*
- 2 **Kathryn Bennetts** Waltz for Anna. *Time Pieces for Descant/Soprano Recorder, Vol. 2, arr. Bennetts and Bowman (ABRSM)*
- 3 **Alan Davis** Turdus Merula (Blackbird): from *Cantus Avium et Volatus (Peacock Press P239)*
- 4 **van Eyck** Doen Daphne d'over schoone Maeght (Theme and Modo 2). No. 26 from *van Eyck Der Fluyten Lusthof: The Beginners' Collection (XYZ 1042)*
- 5 **Matthias Maute** Pedal Point or Still Summer: from *Three Songs for Soprano Recorder. Spielbuch 1 (Ricordi Sy 2614)*
- 6 **Jan Nykl** Study in C or Study in B $\flat$ : No. 7 or No. 10 from *35 Studies for Soprano Recorder (Bärenreiter Praha H7132)*
- 7 **Sarah Watts** Coffee Bean Carnival! *First Repertoire for Descant Recorder, arr. Adams (Faber)*

**AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE\*:** see pp. 88 and 90

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*Descant (Soprano) Recorder GRADE 4*

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**SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS\*:** from memory, to be played both slurred and tongued in the following keys:

B $\flat$  major (one octave)

F, G, A majors; A minor (one octave and down to the dominant)

C, D majors; D, E minors (a twelfth)

**Scales:** in the above keys (minors in harmonic *or* melodic form at candidate's choice). The pattern for scales of one octave and down to the dominant should follow the example as given on p. 14.

**Chromatic Scales:** starting on G (one octave) and D (a twelfth)

**Arpeggios:** the common chords of the above keys for the ranges indicated. The pattern for arpeggios of one octave and down to the dominant should follow the example as given on p. 15.

**Dominant Seventh:** in the key of G (one octave)

**SIGHT-READING\*:** a short piece in simple or compound time within the keys, notes and overall range of the scale requirements set up to and including this grade. See also p. 9.



## Descant (Soprano) Recorder GRADE 5

**THREE PIECES:** one chosen by the candidate from each of the three Lists, A, B and C:

### LIST A

- 1 **Bigaglia** Andante and Presto: 3rd and 4th movts from Sonata in G, Op. 1 No. 2. *Bigaglia 12 Sonatas, Op. 1, Nos 1-4 (Amadeus BP 0317)*
- 2 **Caix d'Hervelois** Tambourins 1 and 2 (*DC Tambourin 1*): 4th and 5th movts from Suite in C, Op. 6 No. 4 (*Moock 2534*)
- 3 **Corelli** Gavotta and Giga: 4th and 5th movts from Sonata in F, Op. 5 No. 10, arr. Beechey (*Schott ED 12238*)
- 4 **Corelli** Vivace and Allegro (from Concerto grosso, Op. 6 No. 8, 'Christmas Concerto'). *Time Pieces for Descant/Soprano Recorder, Vol. 2, arr. Bennetts and Bowman (ABRSM)*
- 5 **Handel** Overture: from *Rodrigo. Handel Ballet Music for Descant Recorder, arr. Bali and Kecskeméti (Editio Musica Budapest Z.14408)*
- 6 **John Reid** Moderato and Giga (Allegro): 3rd and 4th movts from Solo No. 2 in G: from *Three Solos for descant recorder (Boosey & Hawkes)*
- 7 **G. Sammartini** Allegro assai: 2nd movt from Sonata in G, Op. 2 No. 1. *Sammartini Two Sonatas for Descant Recorder (Amadeus BP 0443)*
- 8 **Senallié** Allegro: 4th movt from Sonata in D minor, arr. Beechey (*Schott ED 12298*)
- 9 **Telemann** Aria 3 and Aria 6: 4th and 7th movts from Partita No. 4 in G minor, TWV 41:g2. *Telemann Die kleine Kammermusik: 6 Partien (Amadeus BP 2400 or Bärenreiter HM 47)*

### LIST B

- 1 **Brian Bonsor** Nice 'n' Easy: No. 2 from *Jazzy Recorder 2 (Universal UE 19364)*
- 2 **Chopin** Mazurka (Op. 30 No. 1), arr. Bullard
- 3 **Debussy** The Little Shepherd (from *Children's Corner*)
- 4 **Colin Cowles** A Bright Spark: from *Power Up! for Recorder (Fentone F870-400)*
- 5 **Antony Hopkins** Jig: 4th movt from *Suite for Descant Recorder (Schott ED 10339)*
- 6 **Bryan Kelly** Rigadoon: No. 8 from *Globe Theatre Suite for Descant Recorder (Stainer & Bell H452)*
- 7 **Regner** Andante: 1st movt from *Pfiffikus (Clever Clogs) (Schott OFB 210)*
- 8 **Geoffry Russell-Smith** A Little Latin or Blue for a Girl: No. 4 or No. 5 from *Jazzy Recorder 1 (Universal UE 18828)*
- 9 **John Turner** Aubade: No. 3 from *Four Diversions (Forsyth)*

### LIST C

- 1 **Boismortier** Rondeau. No. 40 from
- 2 **Paul Harris** Oswald's Frolick. No. 44 from
- 3 **Peter Bowman** Dance of the Raindrops. *Time Pieces for Descant/Soprano Recorder, Vol. 2, arr. Bennetts and Bowman (ABRSM)*
- 4 **Alan Davis** Athene Noctua (Little Owl): from *Cantus Avium et Volatus (Peacock Press P239)*
- 5 **van Eyck** De France Courant (*complete*). No. 15 from *van Eyck Der Fluyten Lust-hof: The Beginners' Collection (XYZ 1042)*
- 6 **Hans-Martin Linde** Herbstlied or Hingetupft: from *Fünf leichte Stücke. Spielbuch 1 (Ricordi Sy 2614)*
- 7 **Jan Nykl** Study in B $\flat$  or Study in E $\flat$ : No. 12 or No. 13 from *35 Studies for Soprano Recorder (Bärenreiter Praha H7132)*

**AURAL TESTS FOR THE GRADE\*:** see pp. 88 and 91

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*Descant (Soprano) Recorder GRADE 5*

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**SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS\*:** from memory, to be played both slurred and tongued in the following keys:

A $\flat$ , A, B $\flat$  majors; G, A, B minors (one octave and down to the dominant)  
E $\flat$ , E, F majors; C, D, E minors (a twelfth)  
C major (two octaves)

**Scales:** in the above keys (minors in harmonic *or* melodic form at candidate's choice). The pattern for scales of one octave and down to the dominant should follow the example as given on p. 14.

**Chromatic Scales:** starting on C (two octaves) and D (a twelfth)

**Arpeggios:** the common chords of the above keys for the ranges indicated. The pattern for arpeggios of one octave and down to the dominant should follow the example as given on p. 15.

**Dominant Seventh:** in the keys of F (two octaves) and G (one octave)

**Diminished Seventh:** starting on D (two octaves)

**SIGHT-READING\*:** see p. 9.