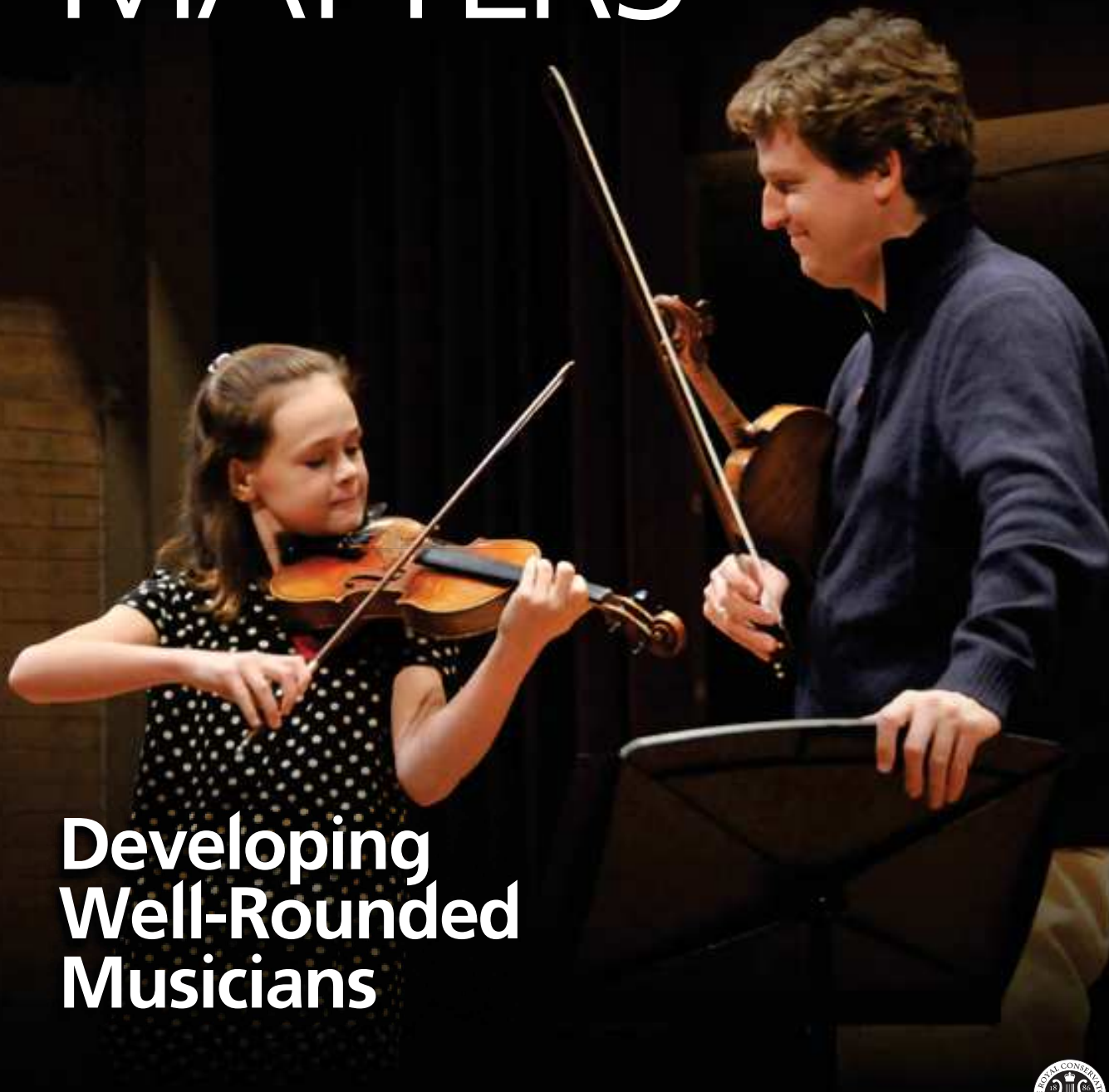


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MATTERS



Developing Well-Rounded Musicians

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Introducing the Clarinet and Saxophone Syllabi, 2014 Edition

By **PETER STOLL**

New winds are blowing through the clarinet and saxophone areas in The Royal Conservatory examination family! Brand new syllabi have now come into effect for both instruments. Along with the new syllabi there are now repertoire, study, orchestral excerpts, and technique books available to support the study of these instruments. Together, they are a great new resource for teachers and students alike.

For both instruments, a major change is the addition of Levels: Preparatory, 3, 5, and 7. This will allow for a smoother progression of material, more consistent and evenly paced preparation, and a greater sense of ease for students taking examinations.

An exciting stylistic change in the *Saxophone Syllabus* has been the expansion of jazz elements in various parts of the saxophone examinations. Repertoire with elements of jazz phrasing, harmony, and limited improvisation have been introduced from as early as Level 2. Jazz elements have also been added to the technical requirements beginning in Level 4, including scales used in jazz improvisation, upbeat counting, and articulations used in jazz phrasing. With the much-expanded repertoire lists, students and teachers can choose a variety of styles to explore.


Contemporary and extended techniques (such as slap tongue, quarter-

tones, timbral fingerings, and glissandi) have been included in some of the repertoire beginning in Level 6, highlighting an area of performance central to the classical saxophone.

Orchestral excerpts have been expanded to include wind band and jazz ensemble classics, as well as symphonic repertoire.

In the *Clarinet Syllabus* the full range of the instrument is gradually introduced, from primarily left-hand notes at the Preparatory stage, to the full chalumeau at Level 1, and then upwards across the break from there. Much thought was put into aligning the technical requirements at each level with the demands of the repertoire and studies listed, in terms of range and keys. There are a few optional E-flat clarinet repertoire selections at some of the higher levels, and optional E-flat and bass clarinet orchestral excerpts at the ARCT level (excerpts now start at Level 7).

Taking into account the length of the actual examinations, the amount and duration of repertoire selections have been carefully refined in both new syllabi. Similarly, the number of required technical tests, studies, and orchestral excerpts have been adjusted. As with other instruments, candidates in Level 10 now have the option of splitting the examination into two separate segments.

I believe that these winds of change will increase the enjoyment of preparing for examinations and enhance the learning process! 



PETER STOLL

Clarinetist Peter Stoll performs regularly in Toronto as a solo, chamber, orchestral and contemporary musician, with recent tours to Japan and China. He teaches clarinet, chamber music, performance studies and the Business of Music at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music. Chief compiler of the new *Clarinet Syllabus, 2014 Edition*, Peter is also the Woodwinds and Brass Discipline Specialist for The Royal Conservatory's College of Examiners.