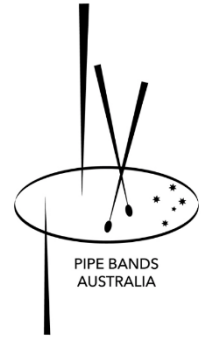


# Pipe Bands Victoria

## Solo Drumming Program 2024-2025



### **BEGINNER:** (practice pad only)

- 1 2 parts of 2/4 March, 4/4 March

### **NOVICE** (Learner):

- 1 2 parts of 2/4 March
- 2 2 parts of any simple time march

### **D GRADE** (Elementary):

- 1 4 parts of 2/4 March
- 2 4 parts of 6/8 March

### **C GRADE** (Sub Intermediate):

- 1 2 or more parts each of March, Strathspey & Reel
- 2 2 or more parts each of Hornpipe into Jig

### **B GRADE** (Intermediate):

- 1 4 parts each of March, Strathspey & Reel
- 2 4 parts each of Hornpipe into Jig

### **OPEN A Grade:**

- 1 4 or more parts each of March, Strathspey & Reel (submit 2 sets, draw at time of play)
- 2 4 or more parts each of Hornpipe into Jig

## All competitors

- Only **one** grade (per type of drum) may be entered in any given solo competition.
- Soloists must play both elements where indicated.
- Soloists must be correctly attired in traditional Highland dress.
- Performance must commence with two three-beat introduction rolls.
- Where a 3/4 is the tune requirement, this means 2 parts, each of 8 bars with repeat (32 bars in total).
- Solo drummer (not any accompanist) to demonstrate control of determining a suitable tempo and give the words of command to commence playing (refer to notes on backing track recordings, below).

## Snare Competitors

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Beginner:             | May have piper (practice chanter) accompaniment. |
| Novice & D Grade:     | Recommend piper accompaniment.                   |
| Open A, B & C Grades: | Must have piper accompaniment.                   |

## Tenor Competitors

**Grading** Tenor solos will be nominally graded in only three grades. **Novice** (for beginners), C Grade (for those with some experience) and **Open** (for very experienced drummers).

- All Grades:**
- Highly recommend snare and piper accompaniment to be used.
  - Complete scores to be played (not orchestrated band settings), including the two three-beat introduction rolls and the first beat note of each tune.
  - Rhythmic drum patterns and stick flourish essential.
  - Flourish itself will not be critiqued, however, if it positively or negatively affects playing it will attract comment.

## Bass Competitors

**Grading** Bass solos will be nominally graded in only two grades. Novice (for beginners), and Open (for experienced drummers).

**All Grades:** Highly recommend snare and piper accompaniment to be used.

## Backing track recordings

Where backing track recordings are used to accompany a soloist, they must be of high quality. A six-click track should be added to the recording in the format below, to allow the soloist to demonstrate skill in calling tempo and initiating the performance:

Click/beat	Action
1	Warning beat one
2	Warning beat two
3	Soloist calls "Ready"
4	Pause
5	Soloist calls "One" or "Quick"
6	Soloist calls "Two" or "March"
No click	First beat of three-pace roll played

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## Solo Grade Performance Expectations

These points should guide soloists, with the assistance of their tutors (if applicable), in determining which grade it is appropriate to enter.

Only **one** grade (per type of drum) may be entered in any given solo competition.

Grades with entries of more than 15 will play in heats, with a final to be conducted later in the day for the first **three** placegetters in each heat. It is the responsibility of finalists to be aware that they have qualified and present themselves for the final at the nominated time.

### **BEGINNER:**

- Properly execute two three-beat introductory rolls
- Demonstrate ability to execute simple time basic rudiments
- Maintain a somewhat steady tempo

### **NOVICE (Learner):**

- Demonstrate ability to execute simple time basic rudiments
- Maintain a somewhat steady tempo
- Perform with a degree of expression

### **D GRADE (Elementary):**

- Minimum massed bands drum score standard
- Demonstrate the ability to play rudiments and embellishments
- Maintain acceptable tempo for each idiom (style of tune)
- Perform with a reasonable degree of musical expression
- Compete on an instrument tuned to acceptable standards

### **C GRADE (Sub Intermediate):**

- Capability to perform fundamentals and embellishments with clarity
- Demonstrate a suitable degree of technical difficulty
- Maintain steady tempo on different time signatures
- Generate expressively with some dynamic influence
- Compete on a soundly tuned instrument

### **B GRADE (Intermediate):**

- Accurate execution of all notations
- Demonstrate sympathetic scoring relative to each melody
- High quality and measure of dynamics, phrasing and expression
- Perform at appropriate tempo for each idiom (style of tune)
- Compete on a quality instrument suitably tuned for the surroundings

### **OPEN A GRADE:**

- Demonstrate an exceptional degree of proficiency and excellence in all facets of performance consistently across idioms (technical, expression, tempo control)