

Regulations for the Crescendo Music Level Test

Swiss School of Music · Zug

Version of 2 September 2026 · Translation. In the event of any discrepancy, the German version prevails.

1. General provisions

1.1 The Crescendo music level test is held in piano, violin and voice, and comprises six levels of difficulty.

1.2 Participation is voluntary and open to:

- students of Swiss School of Music
- students of other music schools
- students of private teachers

1.3 The level is determined by the student's own teacher on the basis of their current stage of training.

1.4 The levels of the Crescendo programme follow the cantonal music level tests and correspond to generally recognised standards in music education.

1.5 The Crescendo Talent Award competition is held as part of the level test. Participation in the competition is possible only in combination with the level test and after separate registration.

2. Practical test

2.1 At every level, one set work and one freely chosen work are to be performed.

2.2 The requirements for the works are set out in the relevant repertoire lists.

2.3 From level 4, at least two works from different periods or styles must be presented. Classical repertoire is to be given particular consideration.

2.4 Permitted as a freely chosen work: works from the repertoire list, works of comparable difficulty, and the student's own compositions or improvisations in agreement with the teacher.

2.5 Performing from memory is not compulsory but is recommended from level 4.

2.6 Accompaniment is permitted for instrumental subjects. From level 4 an accompanist may be arranged in advance.

2.7 From level 5 sight-reading is required; the difficulty is two levels below the current level.

2.8 The teacher may attend the test. Further accompanying persons may be admitted on request.

3. Theory test

3.1 At levels 1 to 4, theoretical knowledge is assessed orally in connection with the set work.

3.2 At levels 5 and 6 a written theory test takes place at a separate time or by prior arrangement.

4. Assessment and jury

4.1 Assessment is made by a specialist jury of two experts from Swiss School of Music and two invited external specialists.

4.2 The participant's own teacher is not a member of the jury.

4.3 The assessment covers overall level of achievement, musical expression, technical ability, stage presence and artistic maturity.

4.4 Oral feedback is given after the test.

4.5 The jury's decision is final.

5. Duration of the level test

Levels 1-2

Test duration about 10 minutes including feedback, performance 3-6 minutes.

Levels 3-4

Test duration about 20 minutes including feedback, performance 4-8 minutes.

Level 5

Test duration about 45 minutes including feedback, written theory test about 30 minutes, performance 6-12 minutes.

Level 6

Test duration about 60 minutes including feedback, written theory test about 40 minutes, performance 15-20 minutes.

6. Certificate and confirmation

6.1 All participants receive an official certificate for the level completed.

6.2 A written confirmation is issued on successful completion of the theory test at levels 5 and 6.

6.3 Successful completion is graded as "good" or "excellent".

7. Crescendo Talent Award

7.1 The competition awarding scholarships for the Performance Class is held as part of the level test.

7.2 Separate registration is required to take part in the competition.

7.3 Prize winners are determined on the basis of the total score achieved in the level test.

7.4 The number and conditions of the scholarships are published separately; the amounts are set out in the price list (Annex A).

8. Organisation

8.1 The music level test for levels 1 to 6 takes place on the premises of Swiss School of Music.

9. Registration

9.1 Registration is made through an online form or an official registration form.

9.2 On registration it must be stated whether participation is in the level test only or additionally in the Crescendo Talent Award.

10. Participation fee

10.1 Registration is binding. If a participant withdraws, the fee is not refunded.

10.2 The participation fee is: levels 1-2 CHF 240 • levels 3-4 CHF 280 • level 5 CHF 320 • level 6 CHF 360.

10.3 For participation in the Crescendo Talent Award an additional competition fee of CHF 45 is charged.