

Piano Proficiency Examination Requirements Effective Fall 2006

<u>Scales</u>	All major and harmonic minor scales	Two octaves, ascending and descending, hands separately. Performed with a steady tempo and with correct fingerings. MINIMUM tempo should be quarter note = 108 (Eighth note = 54)
<u>Chord Progression</u>	I-IV-V7-I, i-iv-V7-I, in all keys	Three chord tones in right hand, root in left hand. Three chordal positions in right hand. Must use pedal.
<u>Patriotic Songs</u>	Star Spangled Banner America (memorized)	Must use approved editions.
<u>Prepared Harmonizations</u>	Three melodies suitable for classroom use, each: 1) in the original key 2) up one whole step 3) down one whole step	You will be given the melodies one week prior to the exam. One harmonized melody must be in a minor key. Accompanists must follow basic principles of harmonization and voice leading. You should use tonic, subdominant and dominant chords as much as possible. Other chords are possible. You will be graded on the choice of appropriate chords as well as the quality of performance. Minimum block chord usage is preferred. These are permitted to be written out and used during the examination.
<u>Improvisations</u>	Three improvisations: 1) a waltz 2) a march 3) a "mood" piece chosen by the student (happy, sad, suspenseful, tired, etc...)	At least one improvisation must be in minor, and ALL must be in keys of AT LEAST two sharps or flats. Each Improvisation must be at least two phrases long, with at least four measures per phrase. One example MUST use a secondary dominant correctly, or a modulation. Improvisations MAY NOT be written out.
<u>Sight Reading of a Chorale/Hymn</u>	The example will be taken from a standard hymnal or appropriate collection of arrangements	Emphasis is placed on a steady tempo (as if you were accompanying a class or other group of singers) and musical continuity.

<u>Transposition</u>	Transpose on sight a simple melody. The transpositions will include: 1) Up one whole step 2) Down one whole step 3) Down a major sixth 4) Down a perfect fifth.	Emphasis is placed on steady tempo as well as the accuracy of pitches and rhythms
<u>Prepared Solo</u>	A solo piano piece at the late beginning or early intermediate level	Must be approved in advance of the exam. Emphasis is placed on overall musicality. (Keyboard majors are exempted from this requirement)

Class Piano Requirements/Piano Proficiency

All music majors (with the exception of piano majors) are required to enroll in Class Piano (Music 131/132 and Music 231/232) to prepare them to pass the Piano Proficiency Examination. This examination is usually taken at the end of the fourth semester, but may be delayed until the student feels they are sufficiently prepared. If the exam is delayed the student must continue to be enrolled in the appropriate piano course. (Music 231/232).

Once the student passes the exam, they are no longer required to take class piano. Students who achieve a “partial pass” on the exam are required to enroll in Music 225: Piano Proficiency to continue working on those components of the exam that they did not pass. They must continue to enroll in Music 225: Piano Proficiency until they pass all components of the exam.

Students who have partial passes will be left on the books for a maximum of 3 years from the time they initially were given the partial pass. Once that time expires, they will have to retake the entire exam.

Students who do not successfully complete Music 131/132/231/232 will enroll in a “XXX-40” section the following term and then re-enroll in the courses they did not complete the following semester. The “XXX-40” sections do not count as an official enrollment for the course.

BME majors must pass the proficiency exam before they are allowed to student teach. BM majors must pass the exam before they are allowed to give their Senior Recital.

Harmonic Scale Traditional Fingering Chart (Two Octaves)

Key	Fingering		Key	Fingering	
a	RH LH	1231234 12312345 5432132 14321321	d	RH LH	1231234 12312345 5432132 14321321
e	RH LH	1231234 12312345 5432132 14321321	g	RH LH	1231234 12312345 5432132 14321321
b	RH LH	1231234 12312345 4321432 13214321	c	RH LH	1231234 12312345 5432132 14321321
f#	RH LH	3412312 34123123 4321321 43213214	f	RH LH	1234123 12341234 5432132 14321321
c#	RH LH	3412312 34123123 3214321 32143213	bb (a sharp)	RH LH	4123123 41231234 2132143 21321432
g# (a flat)	RH LH	3412312 34123123 3214321 32143213			
d# (e flat)	RH	3123412 31234123 2143212 21432132			

Piano Proficiency Chord Progression

Root Position

Musical notation for the Root Position chord progression. The treble clef shows chords for I, IV, V7, and I. The bass clef shows the root notes for each chord: C, F, G, and C.

Roman numerals: I

IV

V7

I

Letter symbols: C

F

G7

C

First Inversion

Musical notation for the First Inversion chord progression. The treble clef shows chords for I, IV, V7, and I. The bass clef shows the root notes for each chord: C, F, G, and C.

I

IV

V7

I

C

F

G7

C

Second Inversion

Musical notation for the Second Inversion chord progression. The treble clef shows chords for I, IV, V7, and I. The bass clef shows the root notes for each chord: C, F, G, and C.

I

IV

V7

I

C

F

G7

C

America

4 1 5 3 4 2 5 1 5 1 4 3

mp

1 2 1 5 1 4 1 3 1 4 2 5 1 5 2 1 3

5 5 2 5 3 4 2

mf

2 5 1 5 1 5 4 1 2 1 5 1 3 1 2

10 3 4 5 4 3 5 5 2 4

f

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 2

1 4 1 3 1 5 1 5

Star Spangled Banner

This piano score for the Star Spangled Banner is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The score is divided into four systems, each containing a treble and bass staff. The first system begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The melody in the treble staff features a series of eighth and quarter notes, with fingerings such as 4, 3 1, 5 1, 3 1, 4 2, and 2 1. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes, using fingerings like 1 2, 1 5, 2 4, and 1 2. The second system continues the melody with fingerings 5 1, 3 1, 4 2, and 4. The third system repeats the melodic phrase with fingerings 3 1, 5 1, 3 1, 4 2, and 2 1. The fourth system concludes with the melody and accompaniment, ending with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Fingerings for the final system include 5 1, 3 1, 4 2, 1 4, 1 5, 2, and 3 1.

Star Spangled Banner

17

4 2, 2 1, 4 1

1 3, 1 2

21

5 1, 3 1, 4 2, 1, 4 2, 2

1 4, 1 3, 1 2, 1 4, 1 2, 2

25

5 1, 5 1, 5 2, 4 1, 5 1, 4 1, 3 1, 5 1

1 4, 1 5, 1 4, 1 3, 2 4

29

3 1, 5 1, 4, 3 1, 4 1, 5 1, 5 2, 4 1

1 5, 1 4, 1 2, 1

Harmonization Melodies

①

Exercise 1: Two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, ending with a quarter rest.

②

Exercise 2: Two staves of music in B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody features quarter and eighth notes, ending with a quarter rest.

③

Exercise 3: Two staves of music in B-flat major (two flats) and 6/8 time. The melody includes eighth and quarter notes, ending with a quarter rest.

④

Exercise 4: Two staves of music in B-flat major (two flats) and 2/4 time. The melody features eighth and quarter notes, ending with a quarter rest.

⑤

Exercise 5: Two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, ending with a quarter rest.

⑥

Exercise 6: Two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody features quarter and eighth notes, ending with a quarter rest.

Sight Reading Example

Thy Works, How Beauteous

Oliver

Measures 1-5 of the piece. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first system consists of five measures. The right hand (treble clef) plays chords and dyads, while the left hand (bass clef) plays a simple accompaniment of chords and dyads.

Measures 6-10 of the piece. The second system consists of five measures. Measure 6 is marked with a '6' above the staff. The right hand (treble clef) continues with chords and dyads, and the left hand (bass clef) continues with its accompaniment.

Measures 11-15 of the piece. The third system consists of five measures. Measure 11 is marked with an '11' above the staff. The right hand (treble clef) continues with chords and dyads, and the left hand (bass clef) continues with its accompaniment. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 15.

Melodic Transposition

Allegretto

Poland

The image displays a musical score for a piece titled "Melodic Transposition" in 2/4 time, marked "Allegretto". The key signature is one flat (B-flat major). The score consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 2/4 time signature. The melody starts on G4, moves to F4, then G4, A4, Bb4, and C5. The second staff begins with a measure rest (marked with a '6') and continues the melody from Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and Bb3. The piece concludes with a double bar line.