

# SAMPLE

## Piano Proficiency Examination Requirements Effective Fall 2006

<b><u>Scales</u></b>	All major and harmonic minor scales	Two octaves, ascending and descending, hands separately. Performed with a steady tempo and with correct fingerings. <b>MINIMUM</b> tempo should be quarter note = 108 (Eighth note = 54)
<b><u>Chord Progression</u></b>	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.
<b><u>Patriotic Songs</u></b>	Star Spangled Banner America (memorized)	Must use approved editions.
<b><u>Prepared Harmonizations</u></b>	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. <b>These are permitted to be written out and used during the examination.</b>
<b><u>Improvisations</u></b>	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.
<b><u>Sight Reading of a Chorale/Hymn</u></b>	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.

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<b><u>Transposition</u></b>	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
<b><u>Prepared Solo</u></b>	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.

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## Harmonic Scale Traditional Fingering Chart (Two Octaves)

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

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## Piano Proficiency Chord Progression

Root Position

Musical notation for Root Position. The piece is in C major. The bass line consists of four quarter notes: C2, F2, G2, C2. The treble line consists of four chords: C4 (C4-E4-G4), F4 (F4-A4-C5), G7 (Bb4-D5-F5-G5), and C4 (C4-E4-G4).

Roman numerals: I  
Letter symbols: C

IV  
F

V7  
G7

I  
C

First Inversion

Musical notation for First Inversion. The piece is in C major. The bass line consists of four quarter notes: C2, F2, G2, C2. The treble line consists of four chords: C4 (C4-E4-G4), F4 (F4-A4-C5), G7 (Bb4-D5-F5-G5), and C4 (C4-E4-G4).

I  
C

IV  
F

V7  
G7

I  
C

Second Inversion

Musical notation for Second Inversion. The piece is in C major. The bass line consists of four quarter notes: C2, F2, G2, C2. The treble line consists of four chords: C4 (C4-E4-G4), F4 (F4-A4-C5), G7 (Bb4-D5-F5-G5), and C4 (C4-E4-G4).

I  
C

IV  
F

V7  
G7

I  
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 2 5 3 4 2

*mf*

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

10 3 4 5 4 3 5 5 2 4

*f*

1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 2

1 4 3 1 5 1 5

# Star Spangled Banner

The image displays a piano arrangement of the Star Spangled Banner, consisting of four systems of music. Each system includes a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat major), and the time signature is 3/4. The first system begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and fingerings (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5). The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The third system includes a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking. The fourth system concludes the piece with a final chord and a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking.

# Star Spangled Banner

17

4 2 2 1 4 1

1 3 1 2

21

5 3 4 1 4 2

1 1 1 1 1 2

25

5 5 5 4 5 4 3 5

1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1

1 1 1 1 2 4

29

3 5 4 3 5 5 4

1 1 1 1 1 2 1

1 5 1 1

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## Harmonization Melodies

①

Exercise 1 consists of two staves of music in G major and 6/8 time. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The first staff contains the first four measures, and the second staff contains the next four measures, ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

②

Exercise 2 consists of two staves of music in B minor and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The first staff contains the first four measures, and the second staff contains the next four measures, ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

③

Exercise 3 consists of two staves of music in B minor and 6/8 time. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The first staff contains the first four measures, and the second staff contains the next four measures, ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

④

Exercise 4 consists of two staves of music in B minor and 2/4 time. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The first staff contains the first four measures, and the second staff contains the next four measures, ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

⑤

Exercise 5 consists of two staves of music in G major and 3/4 time. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The first staff contains the first four measures, and the second staff contains the next four measures, ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

⑥

Exercise 6 consists of two staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The first staff contains the first four measures, and the second staff contains the next four measures, ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign.



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## Sight Reading Example

Thy Works, How Beauteous

Oliver

Musical notation for measures 1-5. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notation is presented in grand staff format, with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The music consists of chords and simple melodic lines in both hands.

Musical notation for measures 6-10. The notation continues in the same 4/4 time and Bb key signature. Measure 6 is marked with a '6' above the treble staff. The piece features a mix of block chords and moving lines.

Musical notation for measures 11-15. The notation concludes the example in measure 15. The key signature changes to two flats (Bb and Eb) starting in measure 11. The piece ends with a double bar line.

