

SAMPLE PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION

for

PIANO PRINCIPALS

WHEN YOU TAKE THE EXAM:

Piano Principals take the Piano Proficiency Exam the same semester as their Sophomore Technical. The Exam is administered as part of the **JURY** at the end of the 4th semester of private piano study. Consequently, students wishing to take the Proficiency Exam should sign up for ONE concurrent extra slot **on the Jury Sign-up sheet** located on the Piano Bulletin Board across the hall from Dr. Belfiglio's office. Altogether, Principals taking a 1 or 2 hr. credit lesson will have a total of 2 slots; Principals taking a 3 or 4 hr. credit lesson should sign up for a total of 3 slots.

WHO SHOULD TAKE THE PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION:

1. Everyone taking the exam should have the permission of their instructor.
2. All those Piano Principals who are also taking their Sophomore Technical and are in their fourth semester of piano study: MUAB 2120, 2220, 2320 or 2420

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EXAM:

Piano Principals who are taking the Proficiency Exam need only take the following parts:

1. Harmonize a melody.
2. Transpose a simple piece up/down a half/whole step.
3. Improvise a melody over a given chord progression.
4. Sight-read a hymn

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T PASS THE EXAM:

If a Piano Principal fails **one or two parts**, then those parts must be repeated the following day with the Secondary Piano make-up exams. Check on the Piano Bulletin Board on Friday morning for a Proficiency make-up sign-up sheet. If either of these parts are failed again, then the **ENTIRE** exam must be repeated the next time the exam is offered (that is, in the next regularly scheduled jury).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. Students have to be registered in a piano course in order to take the Proficiency Exam.
2. Students should continue to be enrolled in piano until the Proficiency Exam is passed.

PROFICIENCY EXAM REPORT FORMS

Two **Proficiency Exam Report Forms** are included with this packet. Please fill out BOTH forms and bring them to your Jury. This is in addition to your Jury Sheets which you fill out for your repertory pieces, etc.

HARMONIZED MELODY

PROCEDURE:

1. Below is a melody which you will harmonize by choosing chords and supplying an accompaniment.
2. Use whatever chords you think appropriate. However, your creativity and knowledge of appropriate chord progressions/harmonic movement will definitely be taken into consideration.
3. Provide an interesting accompaniment and keep a steady tempo such that people could sing or other instrumentalists could play along with your arrangement.
4. Consult the Cadence information which is included with these examples if you need help with simple block-style voicings. However, you may use whatever chords and voicings you feel appropriate as long as you use the secondary dominants listed below
5. Use whatever harmonic rhythm you feel appropriate. Two chords per measure works fine. You can write in the chords if you wish.
6. Use each of these secondary dominants at least once in your harmonization and, of course, resolve them correctly: $V7/ii$ $V7/IV$ $V7/V$



TRANSPOSITION

PROCEDURE:

1. Transpose the example at these intervals:

- Up a whole step
- Down a whole step

2. You must play both hands together and be prepared to play both transpositions.

3. Do not write note names or fingering in the music.

Musical notation for the first system, measures 1-4. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The bass line in the bass clef consists of quarter notes: G2, Bb2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3. The fourth measure contains a whole note chord with a sharp sign (F#) on the treble staff and a whole note G3 on the bass staff.

5

Musical notation for the second system, measures 5-8. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The bass line in the bass clef consists of quarter notes: G2, Bb2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3. The fifth measure contains a whole note chord with a sharp sign (F#) on the treble staff and a whole note G3 on the bass staff. The sixth measure contains a whole note chord with a sharp sign (F#) on the treble staff and a whole note G3 on the bass staff. The seventh measure contains a whole note chord with a sharp sign (F#) on the treble staff and a whole note G3 on the bass staff. The eighth measure contains a whole note chord with a sharp sign (F#) on the treble staff and a whole note G3 on the bass staff.

IMPROVISATION

PROCEDURE:

1. Below is a chord progression to which you will improvise a single-note melody along with an accompaniment. The accompaniment can be simple or complex, depending on your preference. However, the melody should be SINGLE NOTES and not chords. A variety of rhythms in the melody would be preferable.
2. Give each chord 3 beats.
3. Consult the cadence information which is included with these examples if you need help with specific voicings. Although, the specific voicings you use may depend on the STYLE of accompaniment you use.
4. Play the improvisation in ALL the following MINOR keys:

am, dm, em, gm, bm

Here is the chord progression:

i V7/IV iv iv i V7/V V V7
i V7/IV iv iv i V7 i i

Piano Proficiency Examination Report
Piano Secondary

Name _____ Date _____

Belmont ID # _____ Local Phone (or cell phone) # _____

E-mail Address _____ Class Standing (circle one): Fresh. Soph. Junior Senior

Degree: _____ Principal: _____

If your degree is Commercial Music, what is your EMPHASIS AREA: _____

Are you enrolled in MUG 2010 (Piano Proficiency) this semester: Yes No

Are you enrolled in a piano course this semester: Yes No If YES, then circle one of the following:

Class Piano III Class Piano IV Private Piano Level III Private Piano Level IV

Who is your piano instructor? _____

If you are NOT currently enrolled in piano then you CANNOT take the Piano Proficiency Examination.

You must pass the Piano Proficiency Examination before you will be allowed to register for your Senior Recital.

Evaluation
(to be complete by Jurors)

RECOMMENDATION:

_____ The student has completed all secondary piano proficiency requirements.

_____ The student has NOT completed all proficiency requirements and must repeat the following items:

_____ The student must repeat the entire examination.

COMMITTEE: _____

Sections of the Proficiency Examination for the Piano Secondary Jury:

- A. Harmonized Melody
- B. Improvisation
- C. Transposition
- D. Repertory
- E. Hymn/Chorale

Students can fail up to TWO parts and not fail the entire exam. However, these parts must be made up later in the day or the student's grade for the Piano Proficiency Course (MUG 201) will be "F" and they will have to repeat the entire exam the next time it is offered.

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Piano Secondary

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Belmont ID # _____ Local Phone (or cell phone) # _____

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