

PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAM REQUIREMENTS

Bachelor of Music: Education, Classical Performance*, and Composition Concentrations:

Complete all Areas 1 - 6

**Classical Performance Piano Majors are exempt from this exam*

Bachelor of Music: Education Concentration (Keyboard Majors only)

Complete Areas 2 - 7

Bachelor of Music: Jazz Studies Concentration and Bachelor of Arts (including pianists):

Complete Area 1, Area 2, Area 4, and Area 5

Area 1: **Major Scales:** C, D, E, F, G, A, B, D_b, G_b;

Harmonic Minor Scales: cm, dm, em, fm, gm, am

**two octaves with proper scale fingerings, hands separately at a moderated speed (70/2 notes)*

Chord Progression in the Major keys above (hands together with LH single notes, pedaled): **I-vi-IV-ii⁶-I⁶4-V7-I**

Chord Progression in the Minor keys above (hands together with LH single notes, pedaled): **i-VI-iv-i⁶4-V7-i**

Suggested speed: 60/chord

Area 2: **Two Solo pieces**

1. One piece or movement from Baroque or Classical Era;

2. One piece from Romantic or 20th Century Era

**each piece should be at least 3-minute long, and must be the standard repertoire*

Area 3: **Frackenpohl Reading (prepare ALL)**

A. Accompanying Style:

1. Fine Knacks for Ladies
2. Lacrymosa
3. Mississippi Rag
4. En Habana

B. Choral Style:

1. Andantino (Burgmüller)
2. Chorale (Schop)

C. Solo Excerpts:

1. Beethoven Sonata
2. Dolly's Funeral
3. Diabelli
4. Little Brown Jug

D. Score Reading: **check directions carefully*

1. Pg. 185, no. 10 (prepare all 2-voice combinations)
2. Pg. 199, no. 33
3. Pg. 198, no. 31
4. Pg. 96, no. 9 (saxophone & bass line)

Area 4: Sight-Reading commensurate with level of advancement

Area 5: A. Melody Book: “Yesterday,” “Over the Rainbow,” and “Entertainer”

Play a prepared left-hand appropriate accompaniment while playing the melody in the right hand

**Check directions for each song carefully*

B. Play and Sing “Happy Birthday” with waltz-style accompaniment in the key of F Major.

**Waltz Style: right-hand chords and left-hand single notes (L-R-R, L-R-R, ...)*

Area 6: A fluent performance of the Star-Spangled Banner in A-flat Major, with proper pedaling

Area 7: **for Education Concentration **Keyboard Majors only** - 4 octaves of all major, harmonic, and melodic minor scales; all major, minor, fully diminished seventh and dominant seventh arpeggios at a moderate speed, with correct fingerings; and the following pedaled chord progressions (single note in LH and chords in RH):*

Major: I-vi-IV-ii⁶-I⁶4-V7-I

minor: i-VI-iv-i⁶4-V7-i

[Chord Progression Formats]

Chord Progression (Major)

Format

♩=120



I vi IV ii₆ I⁶₄ V₇ I

Chord Progression (Minor)

Format

♩=120



i VI iv i⁶₄ V₇ i

AREA 3

EXCERPTS

2. Fine Knacks for Ladies

Fast

Dowland

Musical score for "Fine Knacks for Ladies" by John Dowland. The score is in 2/2 time and B-flat major. It consists of a voice line and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked "Fast" and the dynamic is "mf". The voice line begins with a whole note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The piano accompaniment starts with a half note G3 in the bass and a half note B3 in the treble. The score includes various fingerings and articulation marks.

12. Lacrymosa, Requiem

Largo

Verdi

Musical score for "Lacrymosa, Requiem" by Giuseppe Verdi. The score is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. It consists of a voice line and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked "Largo" and the dynamic is "p". The voice line begins with a whole note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The piano accompaniment starts with a half note G3 in the bass and a half note B3 in the treble. The score includes various fingerings and articulation marks.

20. Mississippi Rag

Krell

Lively

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system includes a Flute part and a Piano accompaniment. The Flute part begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 2/4 time signature. It features a melodic line with various ornaments and fingerings, including a circled '5' and a '2' in the final measure. The Piano part consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a steady accompaniment. The second system continues the Flute and Piano parts, with a first ending bracket over the final measure of the Flute part. The third system shows the second ending for both parts, with a circled '5' in the bass clef of the piano part. Performance instructions include 'Flute f', 'f', and 'col 8† ad lib.'. The score is marked with '1.' and '2.' for first and second endings, and '(2x)' for a double repeat.

7. En Habañã

Latin American

Moderately

The score is written in 2/4 time and consists of a single melodic line and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Moderately'. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The piece is divided into two systems. The first system contains the first two measures of the piece, with a first ending bracket over the final measure. The second system contains the next two measures, with a second ending bracket over the final measure. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. The melodic line includes various ornaments such as grace notes and slurs, and is annotated with fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and articulation marks (accents, slurs). The piece concludes with a final cadence in the piano accompaniment.

6. Andantino

Burgmüller

no pedal

p

8. Chorale

Schop

p

3. Sonatina

Beethoven

Moderato

p

cresc.

mp dim.

p

5. Dolly's Funeral

Tschaikovsky

Grave

pp

p

6.

Allegretto

Diabelli

Musical score for Diabelli's exercise 6, marked Allegretto. The score is in 2/4 time and consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system has a treble clef with a melody and a bass clef with chords. The second system continues the piece with dynamics like *p*, *cresc.*, and *f*, and includes fingering numbers like 3, 5, 4, 2, 1, 3, 1/3, 1/3, and 1/3.

Play in D.

C. JAZZ

1. Little Brown Jug

Swing

Jazzy $\text{♩} = \text{♩}^3$

Musical score for 'Little Brown Jug' in jazz style. It features a treble clef with a melody and a bass clef with chords. Chords are labeled as CM7, E°, FM7, F#°, G7, C6, and F6. The score includes a 'Swing' tempo marking and a 'Jazzy' note value of 1/3.

*prepare all 2-voice combinations (A + B, T + B, and A + T)

10. Liebeslieder Waltzes, Op. 52, No. 9

Brahms

The first system of the score consists of three staves. The top staff is for the voice (A), the middle for Tenor (T), and the bottom for Bass (B). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The music begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The vocal lines feature a mix of quarter and eighth notes, often with slurs. The piano accompaniment includes chords and moving lines in both hands.

The second system continues the musical piece. It maintains the same three-staff structure (A, T, B). The vocal lines continue with similar rhythmic patterns and phrasing. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and melodic fragments. The system concludes with a double bar line.

Prepare to play both lines together.

*F Horn has to be transposed a perfect 5th below the written note.

33. Menuet

Andante. Notebook for A. M. Bach

F Horn

Tuba

p

mp

p

Prepare to play both lines together.

*Bb Trumpet has to be transposed a whole step below the written note.

31. Duet from "The Magic Flute"

Allegro Mozart Fine

*Bb Tpt.

Trom.

Prepare to play bass line of the piano accompaniment + Eb Alto Saxophone.

*The Eb alto sax has to be transposed a major sixth below the written note. Check the note below.

9. The Chrysanthemum

Slow March Tempo Joplin

E♭ Alto *
Saxophone

* The E♭ alto sax sounds a major sixth lower than the written note. An easy way to transpose is to think it in the bass clef, add three flats, and move it up an octave.

AREA 5

EXCERPTS

[Melody Book] 1. Yesterday

Direction:

- Left Hand: single notes (Root notes)
- Right Hand: build a chord underneath the melody. Use all the chords on the excerpt.

YESTERDAY

Paul McCartney
(England, b. 1942)

Expressively

C E7 Am (Am7)

Yes - ter - day, all my trou - bles seemed so far a way
Sud - den - ly, I'm not half the man I used to be

F G7 C Am D F C

Now it looks as tho' they're here to stay - Oh I be - lieve - in yes - ter - day. -
There's a shad - ow hang - ing o - ver me - Oh yes - ter - day - came sud - den - ly. -

E7 Am G F Dm G C E7

Why she had to go I don't know, she would - n't say. I said

Am G F G(Dm) C

some - thing wrong now I long for yes - ter - day. - Yes - ter - day,

E7 Am (Am7) F G7 C

love was such an eas - y game to play. Now I need a place to hide a - way, - Oh

Am D F C C D F C

I be - lieve - in yes - ter - day. - Mm

[Melody Book] 2. Over the Rainbow

Direction: Right Hand melody + Left Hand Alberti bass accompaniment.

OVER THE RAINBOW

Edgar Yip Harburg
(United States, 1896-1981)

Harold Arlen
(United States, 1905-1986)

♩ = 76

C Am Em C7 F

Some - where o - ver the rain - bow way up
Some - where o - ver the rain - bow skies are

C (C7) F (Fm) C7 A7 Dm G7

high, There's a land that I heard of once in a lull - a -
blue, And the dreams that you dare to dream real - ly do come

1. C 2. C (17)

by. true. Some - day I'll wish up - on a star and

Dm G7

wake up where the clouds are far be - hind me. _____ Where

C B7 Em B7

trou-bles melt like lem - on drops, a - way a - bove the chim-ney tops That's where you'll

G7 (25) C Am Em C7 F C C7

find me. Some - where o - ver the rain - bow blue - birds fly.

F (Fm) C A7 Dm G7 C

Birds fly o - ver the rain - bow, why, then, O why can't I?

[Melody Book] 3. Entertainer

Direction: Right Hand plays melody + Left Hand broken chord accompaniment (stride style).

THE ENTERTAINER

Rag

Scott Joplin
(United States, 1868-1917)

$\text{♩} = 80$

1 2 3

F7 Bb

F C7 F F7 Bb

G7 C7 F F7 Bb

F C7 F Bb (Bbm)

bass F Eb D Db

1. F 2. F To next line 3. F Fine

[Play and Sing] Happy Birthday

Direction: waltz-style accompaniment in the key of **F Major**.

**Waltz Style: right-hand chords (nearby chords) and left-hand single notes (L-R-R, L-R-R, ...)*

I V7 V7 I
L - R - R L - R - R L - R - R L - R -
Happy birthday to you, Happy birthday to you

I (I6) IV
R - L - R - R - (L) - Rolled chord
Happy birthday dear _____

I6/4 V7 I
L - R - chord - chord
Happy birthday to you!

Cancel
Waltz Style!

AREA 6

*with proper pedaling

Piano

21. The Star-Spangled Banner

SATB Version

Smith

The first system of the piano accompaniment for 'The Star-Spangled Banner'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The music begins with a series of chords in the bass and a melodic line in the treble. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The second system of the piano accompaniment. It continues the musical piece with similar chordal textures in the bass and melodic fragments in the treble. The notation includes various chord symbols and rhythmic markings.

The third and final system of the piano accompaniment. It features more complex chordal structures and melodic lines, leading to the end of the piece with a final double bar line and repeat dots.