

Piano Proficiency Level II Equivalency Examination Requirements

I. REPERTOIRE/PERFORMANCE

1. One prepared solo piano piece

- Students whose primary instrument is piano, jazz piano, or organ, are exempt from this requirement.
- Memorization optional
- Suggested source: *Celebration Series: Level 2 Repertoire Album (2015)* or higher (call number MT 245.C45 2015 v.2)
- If selecting repertoire from a source other than *Celebration Series: Level 2*, you must secure approval of your selection from the faculty examiner in advance.

II. HARMONIZATION

1. Songs by ear:

- **Prepare all five of the following songs by ear. The examiner will choose the song(s) to be played.**

A. Happy Birthday

B. Um-Yah-Yah

C. Amazing Grace

D. Silent Night

E. Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

- You may choose whether to play the melody with the RH and use patterned LH chords, or to sing the melody and accompany yourself using both hands.
- Any accompanimental pattern is acceptable other than blocked chords.
- Select any comfortable key other than C major.
- Harmonies must include primary chords (I, I₄⁶, IV, IV₄⁶, V⁷, V₅⁶).
- You may add other secondary diatonic chords as applicable.

2. Lead Sheets

Prepare all five of the following melodies with lead-sheet chords. The examiner will select the example(s).

A.

Chords for Example A: C, C/E, Dm/F, G, C/E, Dm/F, G, C/E, Am/E, Dm/F, G⁷, C

B.

Chords for Example B: Bm, Em/B, D/A, F^{#7}/A[#], Bm

C.

Chords for Example C: E^b, B^b/D, C^m, B^b/D, E^b, B^b, B^b, E^b, B^b/D, C^m, B^b/D, E^b, B^b⁷, E^b

D.

1 Dm 1 5 Gm/D Dm Gm/D Dm

7 A7/C# 5 Dm Gm/D Dm A7/C# 5 Dm

E.

1 C 3 G7 C

7 F G7 C F 3 C F C F

14 C F C F C 1 5 G7

20 G7 C G/B Am 3 C/G F C F C

III. SKILLS AND TECHNIQUE

1. Scales

- Prepare all of the following scales:

| Major | Minor (all forms) |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| C G D A E | c g d a e |
| G \flat D \flat B | |
| F | |

- Two octaves up and down fluently
- Hands together
- Demonstrate correct fingering principles

2. Triad arpeggios in root position

Prepare arpeggios in all major and minor keys beginning on white notes.

- Two octaves up and down fluently, legato
- Hands together, no pedal
- Demonstrate logical fingering principles

3. Triad inversions

Prepare blocked triad inversions in all major and minor keys.

- One octave up and down fluently
- Hands together
- Demonstrate logical fingering principles (the following example presents conventional fingering).

Example 1.

Example 1 shows a sequence of seven blocked triad inversions in both hands. The right hand (treble clef) and left hand (bass clef) play chords in sequence. Fingering is indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes.

| Hand | Triad | Fingering |
|-------|------------------|-----------|
| Right | Root position | 5, 3, 1 |
| Right | First inversion | 5, 2, 1 |
| Right | Second inversion | 5, 3, 1 |
| Right | Root position | 5, 3, 1 |
| Right | First inversion | 5, 2, 1 |
| Right | Second inversion | 5, 3, 1 |
| Right | Root position | 5, 3, 1 |
| Left | Root position | 1, 3, 5 |
| Left | First inversion | 1, 3, 5 |
| Left | Second inversion | 1, 2, 5 |
| Left | Root position | 1, 3, 5 |
| Left | First inversion | 1, 2, 5 |
| Left | Second inversion | 1, 3, 5 |
| Left | Root position | 1, 3, 5 |

4. Diatonic triad series

Play each of the diatonic triads from tonic up to tonic. See Example 2.

- Hands together
- Major keys up to 3 sharps and 3 flats.
- Legato pedaling
- For practice, name each of the diatonic tonic triads from tonic to tonic by letter name and quality.

Example 2.

Example 2 shows a diatonic triad series in the right hand (treble clef). The triads are labeled I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi, vii°, and I.

| Triad | Quality |
|-------|------------|
| I | Major |
| ii | Minor |
| iii | Minor |
| IV | Major |
| V | Major |
| vi | Minor |
| vii° | Diminished |
| I | Major |

5. Chord progressions

Prepare both of the following chord progressions in:

- Any major key up to 3 sharps or flats
- Only printed figured bass symbols allowed (no score), speak each chord by letter and quality (e, g, Am, C7, FM, etc.). Speak *before* playing.
- Both voicings need to be prepared

1. I – vi – IV – ii - I₄⁶ - V⁷ - I (prepare the RH in both inversions)

Example 3.

I vi IV ii I₄⁶ V⁷ I

Example 4.

I vi IV ii I₄⁶ V⁷ I

2. I – iii – IV – I – ii⁶ - I₄⁶ - V⁷ - I (soprano begins on tonic and forms a descending scale)

Example 5.

I iii IV I ii⁶ I₄⁶ V⁷ I

IV. SIGHT READING

Play one musical excerpt following two minutes of preparation.

- You may prepare in whatever manner you wish.
- Level of difficulty commensurate with *Level Prep B repertoire* (call number MT 236.B47 2015 prep-B)

V. TRANSPOSITION

- Transpose all of the following excerpts.
- You will play the musical selection in its original key first, and then transpose to a different key with no more than 2 sharps or 2 flats. The key of transposition will be chosen by the examiner.

1.

Allegro

Musical notation for the first excerpt, Allegro, measures 1-4. The piece is in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The right hand starts with a triplet of quarter notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by quarter notes (C5, B4, A4, G4). The left hand starts with a half note (G3) followed by quarter notes (F3, E3, D3).

Musical notation for the first excerpt, Allegro, measures 5-8. The right hand continues with quarter notes (C5, B4, A4, G4) followed by a half note (G4). The left hand continues with quarter notes (C3, B2, A2, G2) followed by a half note (G2).

2.

Moderato

Musical notation for the second excerpt, Moderato, measures 1-4. The piece is in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The right hand starts with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by quarter notes (C5, B4, A4, G4). The left hand starts with a half note (G3) followed by quarter notes (F3, E3, D3).

Musical notation for the second excerpt, Moderato, measures 5-8. The right hand continues with quarter notes (C5, B4, A4, G4) followed by a half note (G4). The left hand continues with quarter notes (C3, B2, A2, G2) followed by a half note (G2).

3.

Moderato

mf

f

4.

Moderato

mf

p

5.

Allegretto

mf dolce (sweetly)

mf dolce (sweetly)