

PIANO PROFICIENCY POLICY

Piano proficiency is required for all majors in Music, Music Therapy and Music Education. The basic functional skills outlined on the following pages must be demonstrated before a degree can be granted.

Since the acquisition of basic keyboard skills is an essential tool for the study of music and the pursuit of any musical career, **ALL Music** and **Music Therapy** majors are expected to pass the piano proficiency requirements by the end of their sophomore year and before a degree can be granted.

Complete Piano Proficiency Packets are available in the file outside the Music and Theatre Office side door. These are the steps to meet the requirements:

- **Enroll in Beginning or Intermediate piano classes.** Students who have no prior or little keyboard experience **are required** to enroll in the Beginning - MUS 1250 and Intermediate - MUS 1251 Keyboard classes. MUS 1250 and/or MUS 1251 are prerequisite to Piano Proficiency class - MUS 2200.

- **Piano Proficiency class** - MUS 2200 is designed **to pass** Piano Proficiency requirements. Piano Proficiency course is offered each quarter and designed for students to pass their keyboard proficiency requirements. A record will be kept as to which items have been passed. When all items have been completed, a completed check-sheet will be placed in your student file.

- **General information about this exam:** Packets for Piano Proficiency exam may be picked up outside the Music and Theatre Office. The complete list of requirements you will find in the next page. Completion of all sections is required, except for students with a keyboard performance emphasis, who will be required to pass items 2, 3, 4, and 5 only. Samples of the test are available from the director of keyboard studies. In some emergency cases, the Piano Proficiency exam can be held individually for the students who did not pass MUS 2200 class or need to complete graduation requirements.

PIANO PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

1. PREPARED PIECES

(A) Perform two pieces of a level comparable to the following: Clementi or Kuhlau sonatinas; Schumann, Album for the Young. Passing marks will be given only for performances which show careful preparation and which exhibit correct notes, rhythms, dynamics, phrasing; etc.

OR

(B) Vocal, instrumental, and music therapy majors may perform the piano accompaniment for two songs or instrumental pieces appropriate to the student's particular track instead of the piano solo requirement as stated above.

For both of these categories samples of expected levels will be available. The keyboard chairman will have examples of pieces and accompaniments from which you may choose, or you may choose your own piece to work on as long as it demonstrates the appropriate level of keyboard skill.

2. SIGHT READING

Read at sight a composition of intermediate difficulty at a moderate tempo. A polished interpretation is not expected; however, performers must exhibit the ability to keep going with a minimum of incorrect notes or rhythms. Samples will be available.

3. SCALES

Be able to play all major and harmonic minor scales (two octaves) at a moderate tempo using correct fingering. Playing the scales hands separately will be allowed.

4. CADENCES (Cadential patterns using primary chords)

Be able to play major and minor cadences in common keys (up to 4#/4b) using the primary chord pattern: $I - IV^{6/4} - I - V^6 - V^{6/5} - I$. Playing the cadential patterns hands separately will be allowed.

5. LEAD SHEET HARMONIZATION

Harmonization using lead sheet notation - Play and accompany a melody with given chord symbols (lead sheet notation) in the key in which it is notated.

6. TRANSPOSITION

Harmonization & Transposition - Harmonize one of the following well-known pieces using at least three different harmonic functions (primary or secondary chords), then be able to transpose it from its notated key to a new given key, chosen by the examiner. You will be asked to transpose the melody and your harmonization only to common keys (no more than four flats or sharps). You may choose one of the following melodies:

- i. **Happy Birthday**
- ii. **Amazing Grace**

NOTE: Item 6 is a prepared competency. Students may pick up examples to be harmonized and transposed before the test.

PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAM CHECKSHEET

Name: _____

Date proficiency testing began _____

Note: Piano, organ, and harpsichord majors are required to complete parts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only.

1. PREPARED PIECES

(Please list title, composer)

1) _____ Date Completed: _____

2) _____ Date Completed: _____

2. SIGHT READING

Date Completed: _____

3. SCALES

Date Completed: _____

Major Scales

C	___	G \flat / F \sharp	___
G	___	D \flat	___
D	___	A \flat	___
A	___	E \flat	___
E	___	B \flat	___
B	___	F	___

Harmonic Minor Scales

a	___	e \flat	___
e	___	b \flat	___
b	___	f	___
f \sharp	___	c	___
c \sharp	___	g	___
g \sharp / a \flat	___	d	___

4. CADENCES

Date Completed: _____

Major Cadential Patterns:

Minor Cadential Patterns:

C ___	G\flat / F\sharp ___
G ___	D\flat ___
D ___	A\flat ___
A ___	E\flat ___
E ___	B\flat ___
B ___	F ___

a ___	e\flat ___
e ___	b\flat ___
b ___	f ___
f\sharp ___	c ___
c\sharp ___	g ___
g\sharp / a\flat ___	d ___

5. LEAD SHEET HARMONIZATION

Date Completed: _____

6. TRANSPOSITION

Date Completed: _____

Date all requirements Completed: _____

Certifying Faculty Signature: _____

Certifying Faculty Name: _____

(Please print)

Upon completion of the keyboard proficiency requirements, the faculty member certifying completion of all requirements will submit the signed and dated Proficiency Check sheet to the music office, where it will be placed in the student's file.

Major Scales

C Major

Musical notation for the C Major scale in treble and bass clefs. The treble clef starts on middle C (C4) and the bass clef starts on C3. The scale is written in C major (no sharps or flats) and common time (C). The notation includes ascending and descending lines with fingering numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for the ascending line and 4, 3, 2, 1 for the descending line. The bass clef line includes a 5 for the starting note C3.

G Major

Musical notation for the G Major scale in treble and bass clefs. The treble clef starts on G4 and the bass clef starts on G2. The scale is written in G major (one sharp: F#) and common time (C). The notation includes ascending and descending lines with fingering numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for the ascending line and 4, 3, 2, 1 for the descending line. The bass clef line includes a 5 for the starting note G2.

D Major

Musical notation for the D Major scale in treble and bass clefs. The treble clef starts on D4 and the bass clef starts on D2. The scale is written in D major (two sharps: F#, C#) and common time (C). The notation includes ascending and descending lines with fingering numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for the ascending line and 4, 3, 2, 1 for the descending line. The bass clef line includes a 5 for the starting note D2.

A Major

Musical notation for the A Major scale in treble and bass clefs. The treble clef starts on A4 and the bass clef starts on A2. The scale is written in A major (three sharps: F#, C#, G#) and common time (C). The notation includes ascending and descending lines with fingering numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for the ascending line and 4, 3, 2, 1 for the descending line. The bass clef line includes a 5 for the starting note A2.

E Major

Musical notation for the E Major scale in treble and bass clefs. The treble clef starts on E4 and the bass clef starts on E2. The scale is written in E major (four sharps: F#, C#, G#, D#) and common time (C). The notation includes ascending and descending lines with fingering numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for the ascending line and 4, 3, 2, 1 for the descending line. The bass clef line includes a 5 for the starting note E2.

B Major

Musical notation for the B Major scale in treble and bass clefs. The treble clef starts on B4 and the bass clef starts on B2. The scale is written in B major (five sharps: F#, C#, G#, D#, A#) and common time (C). The notation includes ascending and descending lines with fingering numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for the ascending line and 4, 3, 2, 1 for the descending line. The bass clef line includes a 5 for the starting note B2.

F sharp Major

Musical score for F sharp Major in C major key signature. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is common time (C). The piece is divided into four measures. The first measure has a treble staff with notes F#4, G4, A4, B4 and a bass staff with notes C3, D3, E3, F3. The second measure has a treble staff with notes C5, D5, E5, F5 and a bass staff with notes G3, A3, B3, C4. The third measure has a treble staff with notes G5, A5, B5, C6 and a bass staff with notes D4, E4, F4, G4. The fourth measure has a treble staff with notes D6, E6, F6, G6 and a bass staff with notes A4, B4, C5, D5. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above or below notes.

D flat Major (identical with C sharp)

Musical score for D flat Major (identical with C sharp) in C major key signature. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is common time (C). The piece is divided into four measures. The first measure has a treble staff with notes D4, E4, F4, G4 and a bass staff with notes A3, B3, C4, D4. The second measure has a treble staff with notes G4, A4, B4, C5 and a bass staff with notes D4, E4, F4, G4. The third measure has a treble staff with notes D5, E5, F5, G5 and a bass staff with notes A4, B4, C5, D5. The fourth measure has a treble staff with notes G5, A5, B5, C6 and a bass staff with notes D5, E5, F5, G5. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above or below notes.

A flat Major

Musical score for A flat Major in C major key signature. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is common time (C). The piece is divided into four measures. The first measure has a treble staff with notes A4, B4, C5, D5 and a bass staff with notes E4, F4, G4, A4. The second measure has a treble staff with notes D5, E5, F5, G5 and a bass staff with notes A4, B4, C5, D5. The third measure has a treble staff with notes A5, B5, C6, D6 and a bass staff with notes E5, F5, G5, A5. The fourth measure has a treble staff with notes D6, E6, F6, G6 and a bass staff with notes A5, B5, C6, D6. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above or below notes.

E flat Major

Musical score for E flat Major in C major key signature. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is common time (C). The piece is divided into four measures. The first measure has a treble staff with notes E4, F4, G4, A4 and a bass staff with notes B3, C4, D4, E4. The second measure has a treble staff with notes B4, C5, D5, E5 and a bass staff with notes F4, G4, A4, B4. The third measure has a treble staff with notes F5, G5, A5, B5 and a bass staff with notes C5, D5, E5, F5. The fourth measure has a treble staff with notes C6, D6, E6, F6 and a bass staff with notes G5, A5, B5, C6. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above or below notes.

B flat Major

Musical score for B flat Major in C major key signature. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is common time (C). The piece is divided into four measures. The first measure has a treble staff with notes B4, C5, D5, E5 and a bass staff with notes F4, G4, A4, B4. The second measure has a treble staff with notes F5, G5, A5, B5 and a bass staff with notes C5, D5, E5, F5. The third measure has a treble staff with notes B5, C6, D6, E6 and a bass staff with notes G5, A5, B5, C6. The fourth measure has a treble staff with notes F6, G6, A6, B6 and a bass staff with notes D6, E6, F6, G6. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above or below notes.

F Major

Musical score for F Major in C major key signature. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is common time (C). The piece is divided into four measures. The first measure has a treble staff with notes F4, G4, A4, B4 and a bass staff with notes C3, D3, E3, F3. The second measure has a treble staff with notes C5, D5, E5, F5 and a bass staff with notes G3, A3, B3, C4. The third measure has a treble staff with notes G5, A5, B5, C6 and a bass staff with notes D4, E4, F4, G4. The fourth measure has a treble staff with notes D6, E6, F6, G6 and a bass staff with notes A4, B4, C5, D5. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above or below notes.

Minor Scales

A Minor harmonic

Handwritten musical notation for the A Minor harmonic scale. The piece is in C major with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with a C4 quarter note, followed by D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, and B4. The bass staff begins with a C3 quarter note, followed by D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, and B3. The notation includes fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks (accents) for the ascending and descending lines. The piece concludes with a final whole note chord of A3, C4, and E4.

E Minor harmonic

Handwritten musical notation for the E Minor harmonic scale. The piece is in E minor with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with an E4 quarter note, followed by F#4, G#4, A4, B4, and C#5. The bass staff begins with an E3 quarter note, followed by F#3, G#3, A3, B3, and C#4. The notation includes fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks (accents) for the ascending and descending lines. The piece concludes with a final whole note chord of E3, G#3, and B3.

B Minor harmonic

Handwritten musical notation for the B Minor harmonic scale. The piece is in B minor with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with a B4 quarter note, followed by C#5, D#5, E5, F#5, and G#5. The bass staff begins with a B3 quarter note, followed by C#4, D#4, E4, F#4, and G#4. The notation includes fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks (accents) for the ascending and descending lines. The piece concludes with a final whole note chord of B3, D#4, and F#4.

F sharp Minor harmonic

Handwritten musical notation for the F sharp Minor harmonic scale. The piece is in F# minor with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, and G#). It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with an F#4 quarter note, followed by G#4, A#4, B4, C#5, and D#5. The bass staff begins with an F#3 quarter note, followed by G#3, A#3, B3, C#4, and D#4. The notation includes fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks (accents) for the ascending and descending lines. The piece concludes with a final whole note chord of F#3, A#3, and C#4.

C sharp Minor harmonic

Handwritten musical notation for the C sharp Minor harmonic scale. The piece is in C# minor with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, and G#). It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with a C#4 quarter note, followed by D#4, E#4, F#4, G#4, and A#4. The bass staff begins with a C#3 quarter note, followed by D#3, E#3, F#3, G#3, and A#3. The notation includes fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks (accents) for the ascending and descending lines. The piece concludes with a final whole note chord of C#3, E#3, and G#3.

A flat Minor harmonic (identical with G sharp)

Handwritten musical notation for the A flat Minor harmonic scale. The piece is in A-flat minor with a key signature of four flats (Bb, Eb, Ab, and Db). It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with an A-flat4 quarter note, followed by B-flat4, C-flat5, D-flat5, E-flat5, and F-flat5. The bass staff begins with an A-flat3 quarter note, followed by B-flat3, C-flat4, D-flat4, E-flat4, and F-flat4. The notation includes fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks (accents) for the ascending and descending lines. The piece concludes with a final whole note chord of A-flat3, C-flat4, and E-flat4.

E flat Minor harmonic

Musical score for E flat Minor harmonic, featuring a treble and bass clef with a common time signature. The piece consists of five measures. The treble clef part includes fingerings 2, 1, 4, 3, 1, 1, 3, 4, 3, 1, 3, 4. The bass clef part includes fingerings 2, 1, 4, 3, 4, 3, 2, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1.

B flat Minor harmonic

Musical score for B flat Minor harmonic, featuring a treble and bass clef with a common time signature. The piece consists of five measures. The treble clef part includes fingerings 2, 1, 3, 4, 1, 1, 4, 3, 4, 3, 1, 2. The bass clef part includes fingerings 2, 1, 3, 4, 4, 2, 4, 1, 1.

F Minor harmonic

Musical score for F Minor harmonic, featuring a treble and bass clef with a common time signature. The piece consists of five measures. The treble clef part includes fingerings 1, 4, 1, 1, 1, 4, 3, 4, 4, 3, 4. The bass clef part includes fingerings 5, 3, 4, 3, 1, 4, 1, 1.

C Minor harmonic

Musical score for C Minor harmonic, featuring a treble and bass clef with a common time signature. The piece consists of five measures. The treble clef part includes fingerings 1, 1, 4, 1, 3, 1, 1, 3, 1, 4, 1, 3. The bass clef part includes fingerings 1, 3, 1, 4, 1, 3, 3, 1, 4, 1, 3, 1.

G Minor harmonic

Musical score for G Minor harmonic, featuring a treble and bass clef with a common time signature. The piece consists of five measures. The treble clef part includes fingerings 1, 1, 4, 1, 1, 1, 3, 4, 1, 3, 3. The bass clef part includes fingerings 5, 1, 3, 3, 3, 1, 4, 1, 1.

D Minor harmonic

Musical score for D Minor harmonic, featuring a treble and bass clef with a common time signature. The piece consists of five measures. The treble clef part includes fingerings 1, 1, 4, 1, 1, 1, 3, 4, 3, 3. The bass clef part includes fingerings 5, 3, 4, 3, 1, 4, 1, 1.

