

## PIANO FOR PROFICIENCY

Exam– end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester

SCALES: 3 Major keys of your choice  
3 Minor keys (either the relative or parallel of the Major scales chosen)  
All forms: Melodic, Harmonic and Natural

2 Octaves, Hands Together, Ascending and Descending  
**Minimum tempo: quarter note = 76, played in quarter notes**

TRIADS: in the keys above (for minor keys, use the harmonic form)

Root Position and Inversions of the Primary Chords  
1 Octave, Ascending and Descending, LH and RH separately  
Solid and Broken (see example)

CHORD PROGRESSION: I – IV – I – V – V7 – I

In the minor keys, the harmonic minor is used.  
Hands together, in Root Position, in the keys above  
RH chords, LH Bass line only (see example)

**Note: Scales, Triads and Chord Progressions tested at the end of a semester will not be tested in future semesters' exams.**

SIGHT READING: equivalent to Book 3 Boris Berlin

**NOTE: At the exam, you will be allowed ONE “do over” for each example asked (scales, triads, progression, sight reading). 3rd or 4th “tries” will not be allowed.**

REPERTOIRE: 2 pieces of contrasting style

### **At the exam:**

3 Major and 3 minor scales; 4 Sets of Triads and Inversions (2 Major/2 minor); 4 chord progressions; 2 sight reading examples; both pieces you have prepared

**The grading format on this exam will now be point based, not Pass/Fail. A minimum of 70% of the total points is needed to pass the 2nd, 3rd and 4th semester.**

**A minimum of 75% of the total points is needed to pass the 1st semester.** If student does not pass, he/she can retake this exam in the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of study. **However, if the student also fails the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester exam, he/she cannot continue receiving lessons.**

## PIANO FOR PROFICIENCY

EXAM – end of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester

SCALES: 3 Major keys of your choice  
3 Minor keys (either relative or parallel)  
All forms: Harmonic, Melodic and Natural  
  
2 Octaves, Hands Together, Ascending and Descending  
**Minimum tempo: quarter note = 76, played in quarter notes**

TRIADS: in the keys above (for minor keys, use the harmonic minor)  
  
Root Position and Inversions of the Primary Chords  
1 Octave, Ascending and Descending  
Solid and Broken, LH and RH separately

CHORD PROGRESSION: I – IV – I – V – V7 – I

In the minor keys, the harmonic minor is used.  
Beginning in Root Position and First Inversion, in the keys above  
RH chords, LH bass line

**Note: Scales, Triads and Chord Progressions tested at the end of a semester will not be tested in future semesters' exams.**

SIGHT READING: equivalent to Book 4 Boris Berlin

**NOTE: At the exam, you will be allowed ONE “do over” for each example asked (scales, triads, progression, sight reading). 3rd or 4th “tries” will not be allowed.**

REPERTOIRE: 2 pieces of contrasting style

**At the exam:**

3 Major and 3 minor scales; 4 Sets of Triads and Inversions (2 Major/2 minor); 4 chord progressions; 2 sight reading examples; both pieces you have prepared

**The grading format on this exam will now be point based, not Pass/Fail. A minimum of 70% of the total points is needed to pass the 2nd, 3rd and 4th semester.**

PIANO FOR PROFICIENCY  
EXAM – end of 3rd semester

SCALES: 3 Major keys of your choice  
3 Minor keys (either relative or parallel) in all 3 forms

2 Octaves, Hands Together, Ascending and Descending  
**Minimum tempo: quarter note = 76, played in quarter notes**

TRIADS: in the keys above (for minor keys, use the harmonic minor)

Root Position and Inversions of the Primary Chords  
1 Octave, Ascending and Descending  
Solid and Broken, LH and RH separately

CHORD PROGRESSION: I – IV – I – V – V7 – I  
In the minor keys, the harmonic minor is used.  
Beginning in Root Position, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion, in the keys above  
RH chords, LH bass line

**Note: Scales, Triads and Chord Progressions tested at the end of a semester will not be tested in future semesters' exams.**

SIGHT READING: equivalent to Book 5 Boris Berlin

**NOTE: At the exam, you will be allowed ONE “do over” for each example asked (scales, triads, progression, sight reading). 3rd or 4th “tries” will not be allowed.**

REPERTOIRE: 2 pieces of contrasting style

**At the exam:**

3 Major and 3 minor scales; 4 Sets of Triads and Inversions (2 Major/2 minor); 4 chord progressions; **3 sight reading examples**; both pieces you have prepared

**The grading format on this exam will now be point based, not Pass/Fail. A minimum of 70% of the total points is needed to pass the 2nd, 3rd and 4th semester.**

PIANO FOR PROFICIENCY  
**FINAL EXAM** – end of 4th semester

SCALES: 3 Major keys  
3 Minor keys (either relative or parallel) in all 3 forms

2 Octaves, Hands Together, Ascending and Descending  
**Minimum tempo: quarternote = 76, played in quarter notes**

TRIADS: In the keys above (for minor keys, use the harmonic minor)

Root Position and Inversions of the Primary Chords  
1 Octave, Ascending and Descending  
Solid and Broken, LH and RH separately

CHORD PROGRESSION: I – IV – I – V – V7 – I

In the minor keys, the harmonic minor is used.  
Beginning in Root Position, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion in the keys above  
RH chords, LH bass line

SIGHT READING: equivalent to Book 6 Boris Berlin

**NOTE: At the exam, you will be allowed ONE “do over” for each example asked (scales, triads, progression, sight reading). 3rd or 4th “tries” will not be allowed.**

REPERTOIRE: 2 pieces of contrasting style

**At the exam:**

3 Major and 3 minor scales; 4 Sets of Triads and Inversions (2 Major/2 minor); 4 chord progressions; **3 sight reading examples**; both pieces you have prepared

**The grading format on this exam will now be point based, not Pass/Fail. A minimum of 70% of the total points is needed to pass the 2nd, 3rd and 4th semester.**

## **PIANO FOR PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS: Summary**

SCALES: Fluency of **all** Major and Minor keys (in all three forms: natural, harmonic and melodic)  
2 octaves, hands together, ascending and descending  
**Minimum tempo: quarter note = 76, played in quarter notes**

TRIADS: Fluency of **all** Major and Minor keys (harmonic minor)  
Root position and inversions of the Primary Chords I, IV, V

1 octave, ascending and descending, LH and RH separately  
Solid and broken (in triplets)

CHORD PROGRESSIONS: In **all** Major or Minor keys (harmonic minor)  
I – IV – I – V – V7 – I  
Beginning in Root Position, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion  
RH chords, LH bass line only

SIGHT READING: equivalent to Book 6 (Boris Berlin)  
**3 Contrasting styles similar to:** examples in parentheses.  
chorale (p.13, 33, 50); imitation (p.20, 29);  
RH melody and LH accompanying (p.36, 53);  
6/8 meter (p.24); Chordal LH (p.37, 52)

**NOTE: At the exam, you will be allowed ONE “do over” for each example asked (scales, triads, progression, sight reading). 3rd or 4th “tries” will not be allowed.**

REPERTOIRE: 2 Pieces in contrasting style

Students can test a maximum of 5 pairs of scales per semester. This provision can be overruled with special permission from Mark Mazullo and Claudia Chen. If a student wants to test out in 3 semesters, we might recommend a schedule of 4 pairs of scales in each semester, for example.

**The grading format on this exam will now be point based, not Pass/Fail. A minimum of 70% of the total points is needed to pass the 2nd, 3rd and 4th semester.**