

# **Keyboard Skills Proficiency Examination**

## **Class Piano IV**

### **I. Overview**

This packet represents your guide to the materials over which you will be tested during your last semester of Class Piano IV. The examination consists of FIVE equal sections, each of which you must pass with a minimum proficiency for each part. The standards for passing all or some part(s) of the proficiency will be outlined for you below.

Preparation for this exam will come from the skills the student has learned in Class Piano IV as well as Class Piano I-III. All of these courses represent a four-part sequence designed to teach non-piano majors keyboard skills. While many of the techniques the student will learn in these classes are specific to the piano, there are other concepts that will parallel studies in Music Theory and Ear-Training/Sight-Singing. The goal of the Class Piano sequence, thus, is not only to teach a non-piano major how to play the piano, but also to use the keyboard as a practical application of Theory as one progresses through both disciplines. Additional aspects of these courses will include, but certainly not be limited to, the introduction of scales, minor technical exercises, chord progressions, improvisation, sight-reading, playing extended works, and harmonization and transposition. Each of these areas will be presented in some way throughout Class Piano I-III in order to prepare you for the Keyboard Skills Proficiency.

In the final semester of Class Piano IV, you will be able to pass the Keyboard Skills Proficiency in one of two ways. You will take FIVE midterm examinations throughout the semester and each of these exams will cover a portion of the Keyboard Skills Proficiency outlined below. If you pass all five midterms during the semester with a minimum score of 80% for each part, you will have successfully completed the Proficiency and your final grade for it will be an average of those five midterms.

If you do not pass each individual section (whether it is one part or all five parts) via the five midterms, you will be required to take the section(s) you missed in the form of a final exam. NOTE: Should you pass each midterm during the normal course of the semester, you are EXEMPT from the final exam and your grade for the proficiency will be calculated using the method above. If you have to retake any portion of the proficiency on the final exam, you may pass it at that point. Your grade for the section(s) you missed will be calculated by using what you score on the final exam and that grade will take the place of how you scored on the midterm. For those who are exempt from the final exam, you may opt to improve your grade, if you so choose, on the final exam. However, if it is deemed that your score on the section(s) you attempt to retake on the final exam is/are not higher than your midterm score(s), you will receive the higher grade of the two (your midterm score).

If you do not pass a section of the proficiency on both the midterm and final exam, your grade for that section will be a ZERO. All five portions of the proficiency must meet the minimum requirements described in each section in order for you to pass the entire exam.

**\*\*Please note that attendance policy standards and other grades will factor into the calculation of your final grade. You are required to score a C or higher in Class Piano IV in order to complete it successfully. Poor attendance or other below satisfactory grades on other assignments may render your final grade to a C- or lower, and you will be required to retake Class Piano IV.\*\***

## **Keyboard Skills Requirements**

### **I. Scales**

All major and harmonic minor scales, hands together, two octaves.

-Students will be assessed on finger and note accuracy  
(mm between 138-160 per note)

### **II. Chord Progressions**

Play the I-vi-IV-ii<sub>6</sub>-I<sub>6</sub>-V<sup>7</sup>-I chord progression on p. 83 (*Alfred's Group Piano, Book II*).

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Transpose this progression to all 12 Major keys

-Students will be assessed on the fluidity of the progression as they transpose it from key to key.  
-Chord=half note

### **III. Harmonization and Transposition**

1. Two weeks prior to the midterm, students will receive an eight-bar melody with directions regarding the required chords to harmonize with the left hand and the specific keys to which they must transpose the example. NOTE: if the student does not pass this portion during the normal course of the semester, they will be given another eight-bar example two weeks before they are required to retake it for the final exam.

2. Harmonize a melody at sight with appropriate left hand chords.

-For both of these sections, the student will be assessed on the appropriateness of chord choices, fluidity of execution, and in the latter case, the ability to read and harmonize at sight.

### **IV. Seventh Chords**

On any given note, the student will be asked to perform any of the five different seventh chord types listed below. Students will build each of these chords in two ways. First, they will spell out the individual five notes of the chord, hands together, and then play it as a block chord (hands together). The five seventh chord types are as follows:

1. Major seventh
  2. Minor seventh
  3. Dominant seventh
  4. Half-diminished seventh
  5. Fully-diminished seventh
- (see p. 92 in *Alfred's Group Piano, Book II*)

-Emphasis will be on the execution of the specified chord asked by the instructor.

## **V. Repertoire**

1. Students will be required to play TWO pieces from the list of works below. All pieces may be performed from the book or by memory if the student so chooses. The student will choose ONE of the selections while the instructor shall choose the second piece.

Muzio Clementi: Sonatina, Op. 36, no. 1 (pp. 354-55)  
Domenico Scarlatti: Minuet in C Major, K. 73b (p. 84)  
J.S. Bach: Prelude from *Twelve Little Preludes*, BWV 939 (p. 108)  
W.F. Bach: Minuet in G Major (p. 137)  
Anton Diabelli: Bagatelle, Op. 125, no. 10 (pp. 186-87)

(see *Alfred's Group Piano, Book II* for respective pages)

-Emphasis for this section will be on musicality and precision of notes

### 2. Score reading

-Two weeks prior to the midterm, students will be assigned a short example that contains a minimum of ONE transposing instrument in the score along with other parts (no more than two) at concert pitch. The student will play a version of the example on the piano with all parts at concert pitch.

### **Final Notes For Each Part of the Proficiency:**

- I. All Scales must be performed from memory.
- II. Students will play from a sheet that presents the original cadence in C Major. They may not use any version in which they have written out the transpositions.
- III. Students are allowed to use the initial eight-bar melody that they are given with the chords and roman numerals they have chosen to write on the score. They may not use any version in which they have written out the transpositions.
- IV. All seventh chords must be performed from memory.
- V. Students will play from a sheet that presents the example in its original state. They may not use any version in which they have written out the part for the transposing instrument.

## Major and Harmonic Minor Scales

(All pages from *Alfred's Group Piano, Book II*)

<u>Scales</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
<b>C major/minor</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>G major/minor</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>D major/minor</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>A major/minor</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>E major/minor</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>F major/minor</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>B major/minor</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>G<sup>b</sup>/F<sup>#</sup> major/F<sup>#</sup> minor</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>D<sup>b</sup>/C<sup>#</sup> major/C<sup>#</sup> minor</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>A<sup>b</sup> major/G<sup>#</sup> minor (A<sup>b</sup> minor)</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>E<sup>b</sup> major/E<sup>b</sup> minor (D<sup>#</sup> minor)</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>B<sup>b</sup> major/B<sup>b</sup> minor</b>	<b>159</b>

(See Appendix A, pp. 390-91 for Scale Fingering Charts)