

# PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION

## Sample Packet

### WHO SHOULD TAKE THE PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION:

1. Everyone taking the exam should be enrolled in a keyboard (piano) course and have the permission of their instructor to take the Exam.
2. All those students in Piano IV (class or private): MFB 2120 or MAB 2120
3. All those students in Piano III (class or private) who have the permission of their instructor: MFB 2110 or MAB 2110
4. All students taking the Exam should already be registered for MUG 201 (Piano Proficiency). If you're not registered for that course, SEE DR. MADELINE BRIDGES IMMEDIATELY.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T PASS THE EXAM:

1. Class Piano IV students (or the equivalent in private study) can fail up to two parts of the exam without failing the whole exam. If you fail more than two parts you will receive an F for the course and will have to retake Class Piano IV and the entire Proficiency Exam again next semester.
2. Class Piano III students (or the equivalent in private study) can fail up to two parts of the exam without failing the whole exam. If you fail more than two parts you will have to take the next course in your sequence (Class Piano III students will have to take Class Piano IV) and will have to take the entire Proficiency Exam again next semester.
3. All Students. If you fail one or two parts of the Piano Proficiency Exam, you should plan to **retake those parts later in the day**. If you fail any of those parts again, you will fail the entire Piano Proficiency Exam and will have to take another semester of piano and then retake the **ENTIRE** exam again the next time it is offered. There will be a signup sheet on the Piano Bulletin Board outside Mr. Arnn's office to schedule retaking the parts you failed.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. Students have to be registered in a piano course (either class or private) in order to take the Proficiency Exam.
2. Students should continue to be enrolled in piano until the Proficiency Exam is passed.
3. Level IV students (class or private) are required to take the Proficiency Exam.
4. Level III students (class or private) must have the permission of their instructor to take the Proficiency Exam
5. All students taking the Jury part of the Exam should have already completed the "in class" portion of the Exam with their instructor.

### PINK PROFICIENCY SHEETS

Students taking the Proficiency Exam should fill out the **TWO (2) Keyboard Proficiency Examination Report Forms** found in this packet.

Please fill these forms out completely and present them when you take the Exam paying particular attention to the course # of the section of piano in which you are enrolled. You will not be allowed to take the Exam unless you bring these completed forms with you.

# HARMONIZED MELODY

## PROCEDURE:

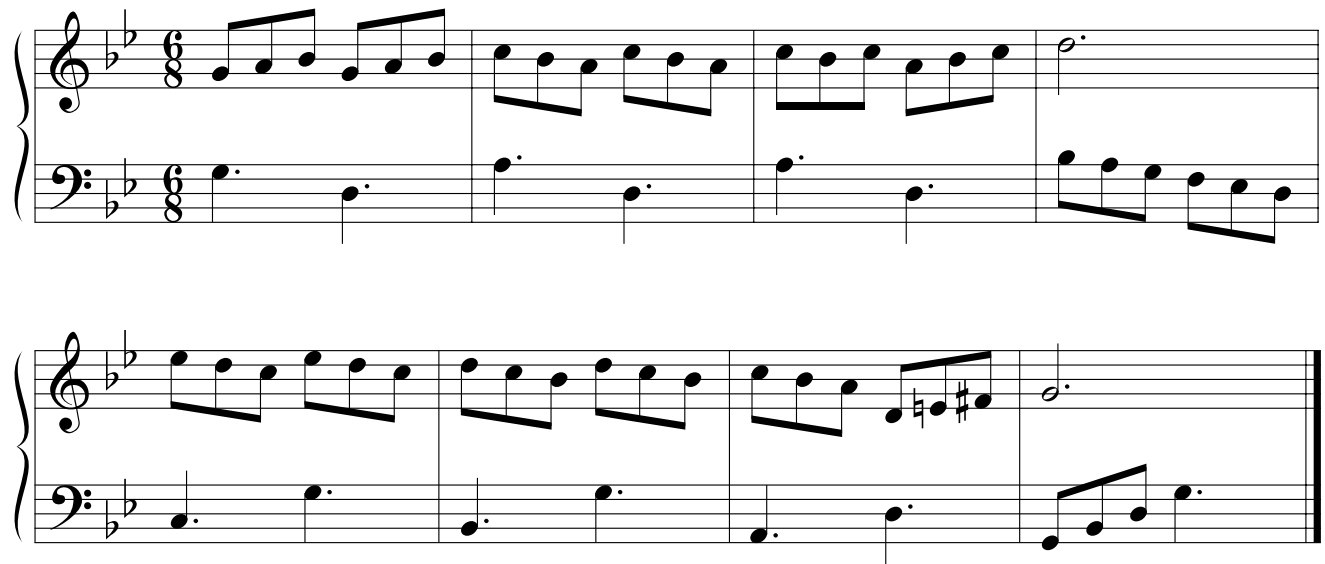
1. Below is a melody to which you will supply a simple accompaniment.
2. Use at least one V7/V chord and at least one V7/ii chord.
3. Go slow and keep a steady tempo.
4. Consult the Cadence information which is included with these examples if you need help with specific voicings.
5. Use what ever harmonic rhythm you feel appropriate: 3 chords per measure works fine (you can play the same chord several times if you want).
6. You can write in the chords if you wish.



# TRANSPPOSITION

## PROCEDURE:

1. The transposition example should be played "hands separately," that is -- one hand at a time.
2. Transpose each hand up and down a half step and a whole step.
2. Go slow.
3. Keep a steady tempo.
4. Do not write note names or fingering in the music.



# IMPROVISATION

## PROCEDURE:

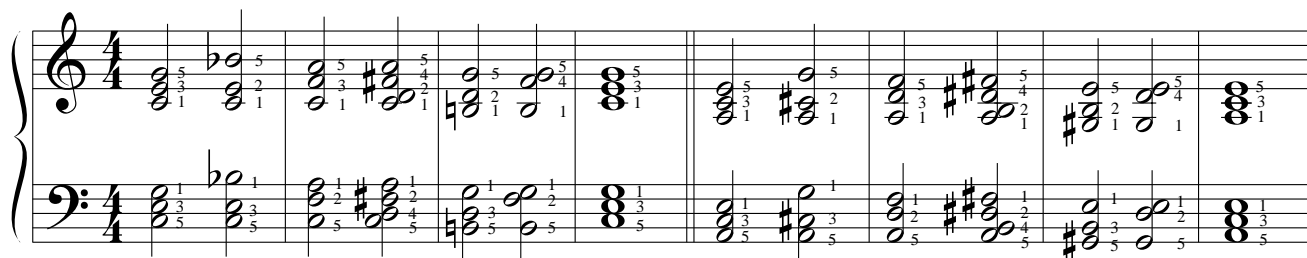
1. Below is a chord progression to which you will improvise a melody.
2. Give each chord 2 beats in 4/4 time.
3. Consult the cadence information which is included with these examples if you need help with specific voicings.
4. Your improvised melody should be simple but show some sense of creativity as well as display characteristics of good melody.
5. Play the improvisation in ALL the following MINOR keys:  
a minor, e minor, d minor, g minor, b minor

Here is the chord progression:

i	V7	i	i	iv	V7/V	V	V7
i	V7/iv	iv	iv	i	V7	i	i

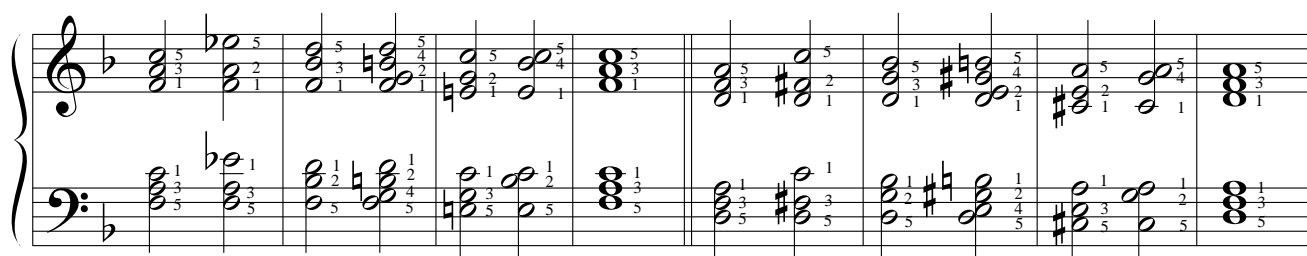
# CADENCES

These cadences are provided as a reference only and are NOT required to be played as part of the Piano Proficiency Exam. You might find these voicings helpful for harmonizing the melody and doing the improvisation.



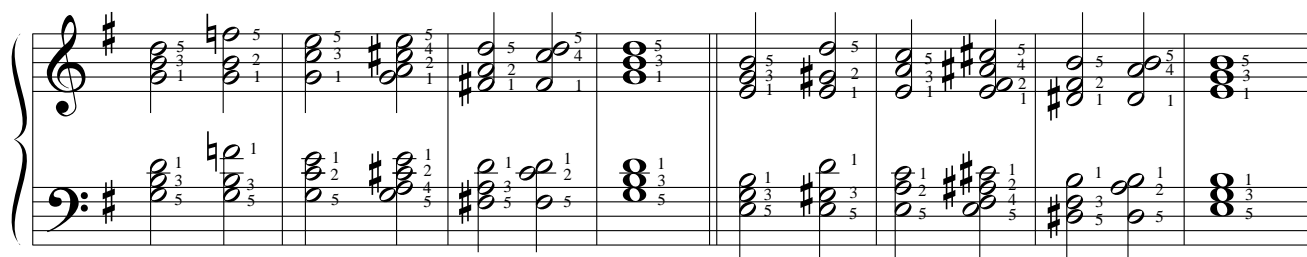
First system of musical notation for C major. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a grand staff bracket. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The notation includes fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks. Below the staves, the chord progression is written: I V7/IV IV V7/V V V7 I i V7/iv iv V7/V V V7 i.

I V7/IV IV V7/V V V7 I i V7/iv iv V7/V V V7 i



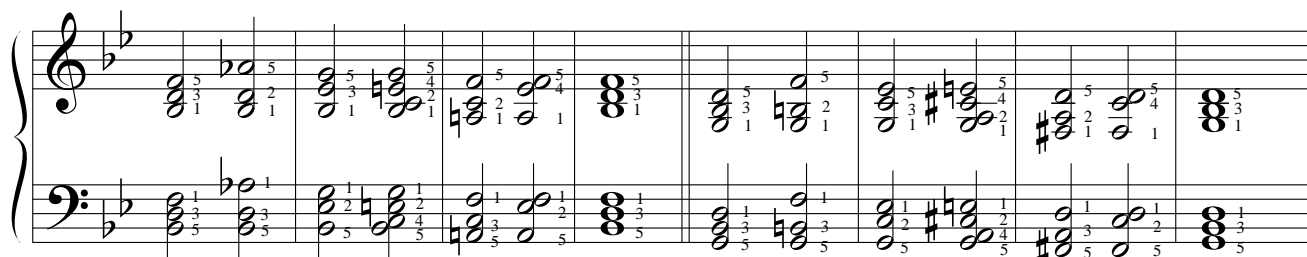
Second system of musical notation for F major. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a grand staff bracket. The key signature has two flats (Bb, Eb). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The notation includes fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks. Below the staves, the chord progression is written: I V7/IV IV V7/V V V7 I i V7/iv iv V7/V V V7 i.

I V7/IV IV V7/V V V7 I i V7/iv iv V7/V V V7 i



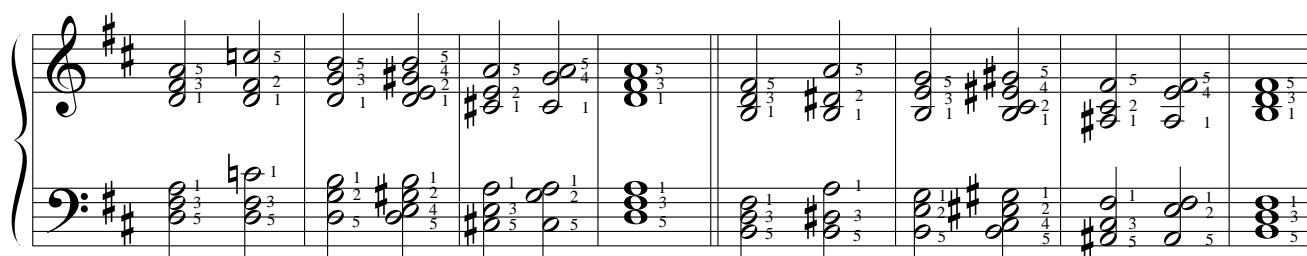
Third system of musical notation for D major. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a grand staff bracket. The key signature has two sharps (F#, C#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The notation includes fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks. Below the staves, the chord progression is written: I V7/IV IV V7/V V V7 I i V7/iv iv V7/V V V7 i.

I V7/IV IV V7/V V V7 I i V7/iv iv V7/V V V7 i



Fourth system of musical notation for Bb major. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a grand staff bracket. The key signature has two flats (Bb, Eb). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The notation includes fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks. Below the staves, the chord progression is written: I V7/IV IV V7/V V V7 I i V7/iv iv V7/V V V7 i.

I V7/IV IV V7/V V V7 I i V7/iv iv V7/V V V7 i



Fifth system of musical notation for E major. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a grand staff bracket. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The notation includes fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks. Below the staves, the chord progression is written: I V7/IV IV V7/V V V7 I i V7/iv iv V7/V V V7 i.

I V7/IV IV V7/V V V7 I i V7/iv iv V7/V V V7 i

School of Music  
Piano Proficiency Examination Report  
Secondary Piano

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Current Local Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Class Standing (circle one):    **Freshman**    **Sophomore**    **Junior**    **Senior**

Are you enrolled in a piano course this semester:    **Yes**    **No**    If YES, then circle one of the following:

**Class Piano III**        **Class Piano IV**        **Private Piano III**        **Private Piano IV**        **Other** (explain)

Who is your piano instructor? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not CURRENTLY enrolled in piano then you cannot take the Piano Proficiency Examination.

You must pass the Piano Proficiency Examination before you will be allowed to register for your Senior Recital.

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**Evaluation**  
(to be complete by Jurors)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ The student has completed all secondary piano proficiency requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_ The student has NOT completed all proficiency requirements and must repeat the following items:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ The student must repeat the entire examination.

**COMMITTEE:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Requirements for the Piano Proficiency Examination for Secondary Piano:**

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| A. Repertory         | D. Improvisation |
| B. Patriotic Song    | E. Transposition |
| C. Harmonized Melody |                  |

Students can fail up to TWO parts and not fail the entire exam. However, these parts must be made up later in the day or the student's grade for the Piano Proficiency Course (MUG 201) will be "F" and they will have to repeat the entire exam the next time it is offered.

\*\*\*\*\*

The student has completed the IN-CLASS portion of the Proficiency Exam:    **Yes**    **No**

School of Music  
Piano Proficiency Examination Report  
Secondary Piano

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Current Local Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Class Standing (circle one):    **Freshman**    **Sophomore**    **Junior**    **Senior**

Are you enrolled in a piano course this semester:    **Yes**    **No**    If YES, then circle one of the following:

**Class Piano III**    **Class Piano IV**    **Private Piano III**    **Private Piano IV**    **Other** (explain)

Who is your piano instructor? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not CURRENTLY enrolled in piano then you cannot take the Piano Proficiency Examination.

You must pass the Piano Proficiency Examination before you will be allowed to register for your Senior Recital.

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**Evaluation**  
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**RECOMMENDATION:**

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\_\_\_\_\_ The student has NOT completed all proficiency requirements and must repeat the following items:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ The student must repeat the entire examination.

**COMMITTEE:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Requirements for the Piano Proficiency Examination for Secondary Piano:**

A. Repertory

D. Improvisation

B. Patriotic Song

E. Transposition

C. Harmonized Melody

Students can fail up to TWO parts and not fail the entire exam. However, these parts must be made up later in the day or the student's grade for the Piano Proficiency Course (MUG 201) will be "F" and they will have to repeat the entire exam the next time it is offered.

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The student has completed the IN-CLASS portion of the Proficiency Exam:    **Yes**    **No**