

## Piano Proficiency Exam, 2009-2010 Hope College Department of Music

The Piano Proficiency Exam described below must be successfully completed by all non-keyboard majors pursuing the Bachelor of Music degree, except Jazz Emphasis students who must successfully complete the Jazz Piano Proficiency Exam. Normally, this exam is completed at the end of the fourth semester of keyboard skills coursework (MUS 197/198 and MUS 297/298). If completed earlier, then subsequent required courses in keyboard skills may be waived. If the exam is not passed at the end of MUS298, the student is expected to retake the failed portions of the exam in the Fall OR retake MUS298 the following year.

*Students must complete the following tasks with confidence, leadership, and artistry:*

### Music Education Majors:

1. Scales and Arpeggios, 2 octaves – hands together. White key major, harmonic and melodic minors; Black key major and harmonic minors. (3 groupings given 2 weeks in advance)
2. Score Reading: 4 voice vocal, easy string quartet, or 3-voice instrumental with one transposing instrument (2-weeks prep)
3. Improvisation: Play a memorized or improvised progression which represents TWO of the following activities: Skipping, jumping, swaying, hopping, jogging, or running. Must include a secondary dominant. (Long-term prep)
4. Assembly songs (long-term preparation)
  - a. Star Spangled Banner
  - b. My Country 'Tis of Thee in F
5. Harmonization: (must include a secondary dominant)
  - a. Sing a given melody while playing a two-hand accompaniment. No chords symbols or roman numerals provided. (2-weeks preparation)
  - b. Harmonize a melody with chord symbols or roman numerals provided. Accompaniment style (no block chords). (2-weeks preparation)
  - c. Play and sing "Happy Birthday" from **memory** in F and G (drop bass or broken chord accompaniment). (Long-term prep)
6. Accompaniment:
  - a. Vocal or Instrumental accompaniment at level of text or early instrumental/vocal method books. (Long term preparation)
7. Sight Reading: A hymn or short example comparable in difficulty to Alfred Masterwork Classics Level 3

### Non-Music Education Majors:

1. Scales and Arpeggios, 2 octaves – hands together. White key major, harmonic and melodic minors; Black key major and harmonic minors. (3 groupings given 2 weeks in advance)
2. Score Reading: 4 voice vocal, easy string quartet, or 3-voice instrumental with one transposing instrument (2-weeks prep)
3. Improvisation: Improvise a melody over a given chord progression that includes V/IV or V/V (2-weeks prep)
4. Assembly songs/repertoire (long term prep)
  - a. Star-Spangled Banner
  - b. Repertoire at level of Alfred Masterwork Classics 5 or above
5. Harmonization: (must include a secondary dominant)
  - c. Sing a given melody while playing a two-hand accompaniment. No chords symbols or roman numerals provided. (2-weeks prep)
  - d. Harmonize a melody with chord symbols or roman numerals provided. Accompaniment style (no block chords). (2-weeks prep)
  - e. Play and sing “Happy Birthday” from **memory** in F and G (drop bass or broken chord accompaniment). (Long-term prep)
6. Accompaniment:
  - a. Vocal or Instrumental accompaniment at level of text or early instrumental/vocal method books. (Long-term prep)
7. Sight Reading:
  - a. A hymn or short example comparable in difficulty to Masterworks 3

\*Scales, Score Reading, Improvisation, and Happy Birthday will be tested in-class during the last week of classes. The remaining areas will be played for a committee during finals week. **All areas count toward the overall proficiency grade.**

\*\*ALL Students are expected to have learned and been tested on the following at some point during the year:

1. America the Beautiful
2. Instrument transpositions to included Bb, Eb, and F instruments, as well as C clefs (tested at sight)

Questions may be directed to Dr. Adam Clark ([clark@hope.edu](mailto:clark@hope.edu))