

# CLASS PIANO HANDBOOK

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

Class Piano is a four-semester course program designed to help undergraduate non-keyboard music majors to develop the following functional skills for keyboard: technique (scales, arpeggios, & chord progressions), sight-reading, harmonization, transposition, improvisation, solo & ensemble playing, accompaniment, and score reading (choral & instrumental). UTK offers four levels of Class Piano in eight different sections. Each class meets twice a week for 50 minutes and is worth one credit hour.

### REQUIRED COURSES FOR MAJORS

Music Education with Instrumental Emphasis	MUKB 110 & 120 (Class Piano I & II)
Music Performance, Theory/Composition, Music Education with Vocal Emphasis	MUKB 110, 120, 210, & 220 (Class Piano I, II, III, & IV)

### CLASS PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAM

Proficiency in Keyboard skills is usually acquired in the four-semester series of Class Piano (MUKB 110, 120, 210, & 220).

To receive credit for Class Piano, students must register for, take, and pass each class. Students who are enrolled in Class Piano will be prepared to meet the proficiency requirement throughout the course of study. However, students who have some background in piano may want to take a proficiency exam to receive credit for Class Piano in lieu of regular enrollment. The exam includes the skills listed above. Detailed information about the proficiency exam for each level can be found on pages 12-15 of this handbook. If you have any questions regarding the exam, please contact the Coordinator of Class Piano.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

For Class Piano I & II - *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book 1*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by E. L. Lancaster and Kenon D. Renfrow. Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. Van Nuys, CA, 2006

For class piano III & IV - *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book 2*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by E. L. Lancaster and Kenon D. Renfrow. Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. Van Nuys, CA, 2006

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## COURSE OBJECTIVES

### CLASS PIANO I

The student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Play major and minor five-finger patterns and triads in all major and minor keys.
- Play all major scales and arpeggios using traditional fingerings: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, D<sup>b</sup>, E<sup>b</sup>, G<sup>b</sup>, A<sup>b</sup>, and B<sup>b</sup>.
- Play triads in root position and inversions in all major and minor keys.
- Play I-V<sup>6/5</sup>-I, I-IV<sup>6/4</sup>-I and I-IV<sup>6/4</sup>-I-V<sup>6/5</sup>-I chord progressions in all major keys.
- Sight-read and transpose melodies in major and minor five-finger patterns.
- Perform solo repertoire that utilizes major and minor five-finger patterns.
- Harmonize and transpose melodies with tonic, subdominant and dominant 7<sup>th</sup> tones as an accompaniment.
- Improvise a RH melody for the given chord progression.

### CLASS PIANO II

The student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Play all major and harmonic minor scales and arpeggios, using traditional fingerings.
- Play melodic minor, natural minor, chromatic, whole-tone, and blues scales.
- Build a triad of the key on any note of the harmonic minor scale and inversions.
- Play both major and harmonic minor chord progressions of following: I-IV<sup>6/4</sup>-I-V<sup>6/5</sup>-I, I-IV<sup>6/4</sup>-ii-V<sup>6/5</sup>-I, and I-vi<sup>6</sup>-IV<sup>6/4</sup>-V<sup>6/5</sup>-I.
- Play five types of 7<sup>th</sup> chords and inversions.
- Play Lydian, Mixolydian, Dorian and Phrygian scales.
- Sight-read and transpose music in major and minor keys.
- Create an accompaniment from chord symbols as well as pop chords.
- Create two-hand accompaniments from chord symbols.
- Improvise melodies over tonic, subdominant, and dominant 7<sup>th</sup> chords in major and minor keys.
- Perform solo repertoire.

### CLASS PIANO III

The student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Play all major and harmonic minor scales and arpeggios, using traditional fingerings.
- Play major, minor, augmented, and diminished chords beginning on any key.
- Play triads of the key and inversions in major and harmonic minor keys.
- Sight-read music that uses intervals, broken chords.
- Sight-read hymn style texture.
- Transpose melodies for B<sup>b</sup> instruments, E<sup>b</sup> alto saxophone and F horn to concert pitch.
- Play two-part and three-part choral scores.
- Identify characteristics of musical style periods.
- Play inversions of V7 chords.
- Harmonize and transpose music with secondary chords.
- Harmonize music with different accompaniment styles: Block chords, Broken chords, Alberti bass, and Waltz style.
- Play chord progressions of following: I-ii<sup>6</sup>-I<sup>6/4</sup>-V<sup>7</sup>-I, I-vi-IV-ii<sup>6</sup>-I<sup>6/4</sup>-V<sup>7</sup>-I, and I-V<sup>7</sup>/IV-IV-V<sup>7</sup>-I.

### CLASS PIANO IV

The student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Play all major and harmonic minor scales and arpeggios, using traditional fingerings.
- Play chord progressions that modulate to the dominant and subdominant in selected major and relative minor keys.
- Sight-read music
- Play chord progressions that use augmented sixth chords.
- Play diminished 7<sup>th</sup> arpeggios.
- Play instrumental scores.
- Perform solo repertoire that modulates to the dominant.
- Play three-part (SAT and SAB) and four-part (SATB) choral scores.
- Sight-read piano repertoire.
- Create a two-hand accompaniment from chord symbols.
- Improvise melodies over chords.
- Perform ensemble repertoire with partners.
- Play modes related to major and minor.
- Harmonize and transpose music that uses secondary dominant chords.

## ACTIVITIES AND SKILLS INCLUDED IN CLASS PIANO

Review theory  
Sight reading  
Harmonization  
Transposition  
Ensemble playing  
Listening to others  
Improvisation  
Accompanying  
Repertoire study  
Technical development  
Open score reading  
Instrument transposing  
Chord progression  
Realization of chord symbols  
Modulation  
Ear training  
Analysis

## PIANO LAB POLICIES

- No food or drinks are allowed in the Piano Lab.
- When you come early for your class, please use the headset to practice/warm up.
- No talking or playing when the instructor is giving information.
- Do not tamper with the plugs or headphone jacks. If you find a problem with any of the equipment, notify your instructor.
- At the end of every class period, make sure the piano is turned off, close the cover, and push in the bench.
- This lab is reserved for practicing Class Piano skills. Do not use this room for personal activity when a GTA is not present.
- The instructor keyboard is reserved for instructor use only. Do not play on that keyboard.
- Do not tamper with the projector.
- You may use the supplementary materials in the bookshelves at the corner of the lab for sight-reading, harmonization, and solo repertoire. After using a book, return it to where you found it.

## GUIDELINES FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

Class Piano requires mindful daily practice. You should make a plan to practice not only piano performance pieces but also other functional skills for keyboard that you learn in class. Please refer to the instruction below.

### Scales & arpeggios

- Watch the fingerings! Make your muscles memorize the fingering patterns.
- Practice hands separately at first, saying the finger numbers out loud, until you feel comfortable without looking at the keyboard.
- After separate hand practice, practice both hands opposite direction and parallel motion in two octaves.
- Play with different rhythmic patterns.
- Start at a slow tempo that you can play without hesitation, and then speed up little by little.

### Chord progression

- Practice hands separately first.
- Watch your fingerings. Using correct fingering is very important!
- Remember how your fingers move when you change the chords (Think about intervals of one chord to the next)
- When you feel comfortable playing a chord progression in C major, play up a half step all the way to octave C. Now you can play a chord progression in all major and harmonic minor keys.

### Sight reading

- Study the score before you play at sight.
- Find out the key, form, range for each hand, repeated sections, phrasing, dynamics, articulations, chord progressions, etc. Remember what you observe from the score (especially any repeated pattern)! That will definitely make sight reading a lot easier.

### Harmonization

- Play the melody a couple of times first.
- Write down the Roman numeral numbers with any inversion symbols.
- Play block chords with L.H.
- Play both hands.

- If you feel comfortable with block chord accompaniment, try different accompaniment styles such as broken chords, waltz, and Alberti bass. For two-hand accompaniment, record a melody on your phone or other recording devices, then play two-hand accompaniment along with your recording.

### **Transposition**

- Play a harmonization piece a half step up and a whole step down.
- Play a five-finger pattern or a scale in a transposing key.
- Play L.H. chords first then add R.H.
- Remember the key signature! (Accidentals!)

### **Solo piece**

- Learn pieces correctly from the very first (fingerings, rhythms, notes, etc.).
- Practice separate hands in sections.
- Write things down: fingerings, chord symbols, inversions, etc.
- Pay attention to musical elements: key, form, dynamics, articulations, chords, patterns, repeated sections, phrases, accompaniment patterns, and rhythmic patterns – anything you can find.
- Practice the problem spots first (hands separately and repeatedly). Fix the problem spots first.
- **Don't play from the beginning every time you play!**
- Record your performance and be a teacher for yourself. You don't need to wait until you've mastered a piece. You will find different stages of your playing along the way.

## TESTING OUT OF CLASS PIANO

Students who are ready to take the proficiency test in order to test out of class piano need to do the following:

1. Contact the coordinator of class piano to schedule an exam: [ejung1@utk.edu](mailto:ejung1@utk.edu)
2. Prepare all the skills for a level you want to test out.
3. Take the exam.
4. Pick up the UT application for proficiency examination form in the music office.
5. Complete the form (please include your UT email address).
6. Take the form to the music office for approval and signature.
7. Take to the registrar's office for approval and signature.
8. Take to the bursar's office for fee payment and signature.

The coordinator of class piano will email your grade to the music office.

# PROFICIENCY EXAM - CLASS PIANO I

Study Textbook: Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book I

## Technique (2 octaves, hands together at a steady tempo)

You should be able to play scales and arpeggios in all the following major keys.

- A, B, C, D, E, F, G, D<sup>b</sup>, E<sup>b</sup>, G<sup>b</sup>, A<sup>b</sup>, and B<sup>b</sup> major

## Chord progression

You should be able to play the chord progression below in all major keys.

- I-IV<sup>6/4</sup>-I-V<sup>6/5</sup>-I in all major keys (p. 170)

## Sight-reading

- You will be asked to play 1 random piece (8-measures) selected by the instructor at sight. (For example. pp. 174-175)

## Harmonization

- You will be asked to harmonize a piece selected by the instructor at sight. (For example, pp. 178-179 with block chord accompaniment)

## Transposition

- You will be asked to transpose those harmonization pieces in a different key.

## Improvisation

- You will be expected to improvise an 8-measure single-note melody for the following chord progression with your choice of accompaniment

4/4 (A major): I | V<sup>6/5</sup> | V<sup>6/5</sup> | I | I | IV<sup>6/4</sup> | V<sup>6/5</sup> | I

## Performance

- Prepare to perform 2 pieces (select from p. 129, p. 151, p. 160, pp. 172-173, p. 328, p. 329, and p. 331)

# PROFICIENCY EXAM - CLASS PIANO II

Study Textbook: Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book I

## Technique (2 octaves, hands together at a steady tempo)

You will be asked to play scales and arpeggios in the following major and harmonic minor keys.

- A, B, E, F, D<sup>b</sup>, E<sup>b</sup>, G<sup>b</sup>, A<sup>b</sup>, and B<sup>b</sup> major and harmonic minor

## Chord progression (hands together)

You will be asked to play each chord progression in 1 major key and 1 harmonic minor key.

- I-IV<sup>6/4</sup>-I-V<sup>6/5</sup>-I in all major & harmonic minor keys (p. 210)
- I-ii<sup>6</sup>-I<sup>6/4</sup>-V<sup>7</sup>-I in all major & harmonic minor keys (p. 242)

## Sight-reading

- You will be asked to play 1 random piece (8-measures) selected by the instructor at sight (For example. pp. 256-257)

## Two-hand accompaniment

- Create two-hand accompaniment. You will be asked to play one piece selected from those on pp. 244-245 (nos. 3 & 4), p. 268 and p. 294 (nos. 3 & 4). Prepare all 3 pieces.

## Harmonization

- You will be asked to harmonize a piece selected by the instructor at sight (For example, pp. 248-249 with broken chord accompaniment)

## Transposition

- You will be asked to transpose the above harmonization piece down a half step and up a whole step

## Improvisation

- You will be expected to improvise an 8-measure single-note melody for the following chord progression with your choice of accompaniment (except block chord accompaniment)

4/4 (D harmonic minor): i | VI | iv | ii<sup>6</sup> | i<sup>6/4</sup> | V<sup>7</sup> | V<sup>7</sup> | i

## Performance

- Prepare to play 1 piece selected from pp. 276-277, p. 317, p. 334, or p. 335
- Perform one other solo piece of your choice

# PROFICIENCY EXAM - CLASS PIANO III

Study Textbook: Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book II

## Technique (2 octaves, hands together at a steady tempo)

You will be asked to play scales and arpeggios.

- All major and harmonic minor scales
- All major and harmonic minor arpeggios

## Chord progression

You will be asked to play the following chord progression.

- I-ii<sup>6</sup>-I<sup>6/4</sup>-V<sup>7</sup>-I in all major & harmonic minor keys (p. 82)

## Sight-reading

- You will be asked to play 1 random piece (8-measures) selected by the instructor at sight (For example: pp. 176-177)
- You will also be asked to play open vocal score reading (For example: p. 132)

## Harmonization

- You will be asked to harmonize a piece selected by the instructor at sight (For example, p. 166 with broken chord accompaniment)

## Transposition

- You will be asked to transpose the above harmonization piece up a half step and down a whole step

## Improvisation

- You will be expected to improvise an 8-measure single-note melody for the following chord progression with your choice of accompaniment

3/4 (E<sup>b</sup> major): I | IV<sup>6/4</sup> | I | V<sup>6/5</sup>/vi | vi | ii<sup>6/4</sup> | V<sup>7</sup> | I

## Performance

- Prepare to play 1 piece selected from p. 108, p. 121, p. 137, pp. 162-163, p. 346, pp. 348-349, pp. 356-357
- Perform one other solo piece of your choice

# PROFICIENCY EXAM - CLASS PIANO IV

Study Textbook: Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book II

**Technique** (2 octaves, hands together at a steady tempo) ♩ = 100

You will be asked to play scales and arpeggios.

- All major and harmonic minor scales
- All major and harmonic minor arpeggios

## Sight-reading

- Choral (hymn) style reading: play at a steady tempo
- Play 1 random piece (8-measures) selected by the instructor at sight (For example, pp. 234-235)

## Harmonization

- You will be asked to harmonize a piece selected by the instructor at sight (For example, pp. 236 with broken chord accompaniment)

## Transposition

- You will be asked to transpose the above harmonization piece in the suggested keys.

## Improvisation

- You will be expected to improvise an 8-measure single-note melody for the following chord progression with your choice of accompaniment (except block chord accompaniment)

6/8 (F major): F C<sup>7</sup>/E | F | D<sup>b</sup>(Gr<sup>6</sup>) | C<sup>7</sup> | F C<sup>7</sup>/E | F | D<sup>b</sup>(Gr<sup>6</sup>) C<sup>7</sup> | F

## Transposing Instrument

- You will be asked to transpose a melody for B<sup>b</sup>, F or E instrument to concert pitch

## Accompaniment

- Select 1 piece from your major instrument, then play the piano accompaniment part

## Performance

- Prepare to perform 1 piece selected from pp. 275-277, pp. 306-307, pp. 335-337, pp. 350-353, pp. 354-355, pp. 356-357, pp. 358-360, p. 363
- Prepare to perform one other solo piece of your choice.

## FAQ

### **Why take Class Piano?**

Class Piano develops comprehensive musicianship skills, not only keyboard skills. It involves the practical application of skills learned in Music Theory, Ear Training, and Music History (in terms of styles and characteristics) in one course in order to allow students to understand the importance of these skills and sharpen their ability to apply them in diverse situations.

### **What is the class piano proficiency exam?**

Students who are required to take class piano either 2 semesters or 4 semesters may test out by passing a proficiency exam. There are four levels of proficiency exams, and these exams are the same as the finals in each level of class piano. For example, If you pass proficiency exam I, you can register for class piano II. If you have had a great deal of piano experience, you can test out of the level you want to skip. The details for each proficiency exam are on pp. 12-15

### **When do I take the exam?**

The proficiency exam is administered throughout each semester up to two weeks before Finals Week. You need to contact the Class Piano Coordinator to schedule your exam at least two weeks before you take the exam.

### **What happens if I don't pass the exam?**

If you don't pass the exam, you need to take the Class Piano course that is recommended by the Class Piano Coordinator.

### **How do I sign up for the proficiency exam?**

Students who are ready to take the proficiency exam need to contact the Class Piano Coordinator via email ([ejung1@utk.edu](mailto:ejung1@utk.edu)).

### **What do I need to prepare to take the proficiency exam?**

You need to fill out the proficiency exam form and bring the form (find the appropriate level on pp. 16-23) when you take the exam. All materials are available in the keyboard proficiency test requirements pages (pp. 12-15) in the class piano handbook.

### **When will I be notified of the results?**

You will receive an email from the Class Piano Coordinator with the results of your exam. The Class Piano Coordinator also informs the music office of your exam results.

**What if I don't demonstrate mastery of all of the skills?**

If you don't pass all of the skills, you will need to retake the skills that you didn't pass. The Class Piano Coordinator will talk with you after your exam about the next step you need to take.

**Do I need to take a proficiency exam in order to skip a Class Piano course?**

No, you are only required to take it if you want the credit. If you have years of piano skills, you can register for an upper level class piano course without taking a proficiency exam. You have to talk to the Class Piano Coordinator prior to or during the first week of the semester to determine your eligibility for this option.

**I am not a music major student. Can I take a Class Piano?**

Yes. If there are available seats once the semester has started, then you can register for a class.