



UIW Department of Music

## Keyboard Proficiency Exam Guidelines

(updated Oct 2019)

**The Keyboard Proficiency Exam is required of all music majors.**

There are two sections of the Keyboard Proficiency Exam:

I. the **Prepared Section**; II. the **At-Sight Section**. These are described below.

### **I. Prepared Section of the Keyboard Proficiency Exam:**

A. **SCALES/ARPEGGIOS:** All major and harmonic minor scales and arpeggios played 2 octaves, hands together, in parallel motion, ascending and descending.

*Criteria for passing: Prompt and secure rendition, both in structure and fingering; steady rhythm, moderato tempo. No trial and error.*

B. **REPERTOIRE:** A prepared piece chosen from the approved repertoire list. (See p. 3)

*Criteria for passing: Solid performance, no stops; appropriate tempo; dynamics and other expression marks.*

C. **HARMONIZATION/TRANSPOSITION:** Two prepared harmonizations from the approved list of melodies (See p. 3), using secondary dominants: V7/IV, V/V, V/ii, V/vi, & V/iii, in the original key with RH melody and LH accompaniment pattern. This LH accompaniment must do something beyond just blocking the chord on the main beats. (You can choose from a variety of styles).

*Criteria for passing: Solid execution (no stops; generally accurate rendition); proper use of chords and chord progression. Play melody and chords together.*

D. **TRANSPOSITION/SCORE READING:**

1) Play an individual part from a band or orchestral score. Be able to a) transpose B-flat, F, and E-flat instruments to concert pitch, and b) read alto clef. (See p. 4)

2) Play all four parts of an SATB open choral score. (See p. 5)

*Criteria for passing: Solid execution at marked tempo.*

**All parts of the Prepared Section of the Keyboard Proficiency Exam will be graded in class by your Keyboard Skills IV instructor.**

All parts of the Prepared Section of the Keyboard Proficiency Exam must be passed before the final exam for MUSI 2120 Keyboard Skills IV can be taken. Once the Prepared Section of the Keyboard Proficiency Exam is completed, the student may take the At-Sight Section, described below.

## II. At-Sight Section of the Keyboard Proficiency Exam:

A. IMPROVISATION: Improvise a melody based on given chords. (See p. 6) You will have 2 minutes to prepare the improvisation.

*Criteria for passing: Solid execution; meter accuracy and rhythmic steadiness; evidence of motivic organization and consistency.*

B. SIGHT-READING: You will be asked to play a short passage at sight in the written key. This passage will not be given to you in advance. (See p. 6) You will have 2 minutes to prepare the example.

*Criteria for passing: Solid sight-reading (no stops; generally accurate rendition); play both hands together.*

C. HARMONIZATION/SIGHT-TRANSPOSITION: **You may choose either to harmonize or transpose a passage.**

- You will be asked to harmonize a melody. You will have 2 minutes to prepare the example.
- You will be asked to transpose a short passage at sight. You will have 2 minutes to prepare the example. (See p. 6)

*Criteria for passing: Solid sight-reading (no stops; generally accurate rendition); play both hands together.*

The Keyboard Skills IV (MUSI 2120) final exam is the At-Sight Section of the Keyboard Proficiency Exam. The student must pass this exam in order to complete the UIW keyboard proficiency requirement. If a student fails (anything lower than a "C" is considered failing) any part of the At-Sight Section, the student may still receive a passing grade for the course. However, the failed part(s) must be retaken and passed before the student can be certified as having met the UIW keyboard proficiency requirement. The student who has failed a part of the At-Sight Section has the following options:

Option 1: Students who have passed Keyboard Skills IV (MUSI 2120) but not the final At-Sight Section may enroll in the Proficiency Review Private Lesson (MUAP 2146) during the summer, fall, and/or spring semester at arranged times. They may retake the parts of the proficiency that they did not pass at the end of the semester in which they are enrolled.

Option 2: Students who have dropped or failed Keyboard Skills IV (MUAP 2146) for any reason will be advised to enroll in the Proficiency Review Private Lesson (MUAP 2146) during the fall semester at arranged times. They will not be eligible to take the proficiency in the fall semester. They must retake Keyboard Skills IV (MUSI 2120) in the spring.

Once all parts of the At-Sight Section of the Keyboard Proficiency Exam are passed, the student and the Registrar will receive official notice of this achievement.

## SAMPLES OF THE KEYBOARD PROFICIENCY COMPONENTS

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### I. Prepared Section:

#### REPERTOIRE:

Choose **one** from the following approved repertoire list for the Keyboard Proficiency Exam:

#### *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book I:*

Beethoven, Ludwig van	<i>Ecossaise</i>	(p. 317)
	<i>German Dance</i>	(p. 129)
Beyer, Ferdinand	<i>Allegretto, Op. 101, No. 43</i>	(p. 342)
Couperin, François	<i>The Cuckoo</i>	(p. 224)
Grieg, Edvard	<i>In the Hall of the Mountain King</i>	(p. 338)
Haydn, Franz Joseph	<i>German Dance (D Major)</i>	(p. 331)
	<i>German Dance (G Major)</i>	(p. 335)
Lully, Jean-Baptiste	<i>Minuet in D Minor</i>	(p. 336)
Neeffe, Christian Gottlob	<i>Dance</i>	(p. 238)
Rollin, Catherine	<i>Prelude No. 1</i>	(p. 346)

#### *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book II:*

Bach Johann Sebastian	<i>Musette in D Major</i>	(p. 349)
Bach Wilhelm Friedmann	<i>Minuet in G Major</i>	(p. 137)
Burgmüller Johann	<i>Arabesque</i>	(p.362)
Diabelli Anton	<i>Bagatelle</i>	(p.186-187)
Haydn Franz Joseph	<i>Minuet in G Major</i>	(p.121)
Krieger Johann	<i>Minuet in A Minor</i>	(p.345)
Mozart Leopold	<i>Minuet in D Minor</i>	(p.208)
Streabbog Jean Louis	<i>A Pleasant Morning</i>	(p.58-59)
Tingley George Peter	<i>Giga</i>	(p.174-175)

#### HARMONIZATION:

Choose **two** tunes from the following list for the Keyboard Proficiency Exam. (The tunes will be provided during Keyboard Skills IV.)

1. Roses from the South
2. Yankee Doodle Boy
3. Amazing Grace
4. Cassion Song
5. I've Been Workin' on the Railroad
6. Comin' Round the Mountain

## TRANSPPOSITION/SCORE READING

### 1. Transposition (SAMPLE ONLY – YOU WILL BE GIVEN A DIFFERENT PASSAGE)

1. B $\flat$  Clarinet

#### MERRY WIDOW WALTZ

2-22

Franz Lehár (1870–1948)  
Arr. John Kinyon and John O'Reilly

Moderato

Musical score for the B $\flat$  Clarinet part of 'Merry Widow Waltz'. The score is in 3/8 time and D major. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff starts with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The second staff begins at measure 12, and the third staff begins at measure 23. The music features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and some slurs.

#### POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

6-35

Edward Elgar (1857–1934)  
Arr. John O'Reilly and Mark Williams

Andante

Musical score for the B $\flat$  Clarinet part of 'Pomp and Circumstance'. The score is in 2/4 time and D major. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff starts with a dynamic marking of *f* and ends with a *mf* marking. The second staff begins at measure 6 and includes first and second endings. The first ending is marked '1.' and the second ending is marked '2. div.'. The music features a melodic line with quarter and eighth notes, and some slurs.

(From *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults*, Book 2, by E.L. Lancaster and Kenon D Renfrow, 2004)

2. Four-Part Score Reading (SAMPLE ONLY – YOU WILL BE GIVEN A DIFFERENT PASSAGE):

**CREDO**  
(EXCERPT FROM MASS IN G)

14-32 (65) Franz Peter Schubert (1797–1828)  
D. 167

**Allegro moderato**

Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B) parts are shown. Dynamics include *pp* and *pp* RH. Hand markings include LH and RH. A box with the number 11 is present at the start of the second system.

Modes Related to Minor ■ Unit 29 329

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