



## Preparatory Level Assessment (piano)

To complete this level, students must demonstrate fluency in the following areas:

### Technique

Must demonstrate good piano posture. Must know the following:

- Ideal placement of bench
- Arm and wrist position
- Finger shape and position
- Foot position

Must be able to quickly identify the following common 5-finger positions:

- Middle C position (thumbs sharing C)
- C Major 5-finger position
- C Major 5-finger high position
- G Major 5-finger Position
- F Major 5-finger Position
- D Minor 5-Finger Position
- A Minor 5-Finger Position

Must be able to play the following with metronome @72 bpm (quarter notes):

- C Major 5-Finger Scale
- G Major 5-Finger Scale
- D Minor 5-Finger Scale
- A Minor 5-Finger Scale

## **Sight Reading**

**Rhythmic Reading:** The student must be able to sight read one easy 4-bar rhythmic example in 4/4 time while maintaining a steady beat (student chooses tempo). The student will have 30 seconds to mentally practice before performing. Note values may include:

- Quarter notes and/or quarter rests
- Half notes and/or half rests
- Whole notes and/or whole rests
- Eighth notes

**Open Melodic Sight Reading:** The student must be able to read 16 measures on the grand staff in middle C position without stopping. The student will have 30 seconds to prepare. The example will be stepwise motion hands separate.

**Grad Staff Sight Reading:** The student must perform one easy 4-bar melodic example in 4/4 time while maintaining a steady beat (student chooses tempo). The student will have 30 seconds to mentally practice before performing. Examples will follow the following parameters:

- On grand staff, hands mostly separate
- They will be in either middle C position, C 5-finger, C 5-finger high position, G Major 5-finger position or D minor 5-finger position

- Examples may include stepwise motion, repeated notes and skips to the root note.
- They may include quarter notes, quarter rests, half notes, half rests, whole notes and whole rests.

## **Ear Training**

The Student must be able to identify the following by ear:

- If a musical excerpt is piano and forte
- Crescendo or decrescendo
- If an excerpt is high (above middle C) or low (below middle C)
- If a musical passage is ascending or descending in pitch
- If a 5-finger scale is major or minor

They will have the opportunity to hear each example 2 times.

## **Performance**

The student must perform 2 short 8-16 measure songs. Memorization is not required. The songs must include the following:

- Use of the Grand Staff and various elements studied at this level.

- One song must demonstrate hands playing together even if it's just on the final chord. The other sections may alternate between the two staves.
- Student must play with a steady beat. The student chooses the tempo.

## **Music Theory**

- \* Suggested Text: Basics of Keyboard Theory  
**Preparatory Level** by Julie McIntosh Johnson  
(Lessons 1-8 only)

The student must be able to identify and define the following:

- Staff elements and musical terms: Treble and bass clef symbols, measure/bar, regular barline, double barline, final barline, brace, single staff, grand staff, key signature, time signature, steady beat and tempo.
- Note Identification: Must be able to recite the following notes on each staff **independently** in under 40 seconds:
  - Bass clef: C3 up to Middle C (C4)
  - Treble clef: Middle C (C4) up to C5
- Time signatures: The student must be able to explain what the top and bottom numbers do, and are expected to know 4/4, 3/4 and 2/4

- Note Values: Quarter notes/rests, half note/rests, whole notes/rests and eighth notes/rests
- Dynamic markings: Must know the difference between p and f, and crescendo and decrescendo
- Intervals: The student must be able to identify whole steps and half steps (2nds), 3rds (non specific quality) and 4ths (no specific quality)
- Accidentals: Students must be able to label and draw sharps, flats and naturals. They must know what they do.
- The student must be able to identify all of the elements above in a 4-8 measure musical excerpt plus:
  - Identify 5-finger scales within the music (will be C or G Major)
  - If the circled section is stepping or skipping
  - Passages that use repetition