



Level One Assessment (piano)

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

Technique

*** Please Use the Scales and Chords Set 1 to prepare for this assessment**

Student must demonstrate:

- All technique from Level Prep
- Ability to keep fingertips rounded and on keys at any tempo
- Legato and Staccato playing

Must be able to **quickly** identify the following 5-finger positions and triads:

- All from Level Prep
- D Major and D minor
- A Major and A minor
- E Major and E minor

Student must be able to play the following **5-finger patterns** with metronome @72 bpm (eighth notes):

- C Major and minor
- G Major and minor
- D Major and minor
- A Major and minor
- E Major and minor

Student must play the following **one-octave scales** (quarter notes) and **triad inversions** (half notes) with metronome @ 72 bpm (quarter notes):

- C Major
- G Major
- D Major
- A Major
- E Major

Sight Reading

Rhythmic Reading: The student must be able to sight read one 4-bar rhythmic example in 4/4 or 3/4 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
- Dotted half notes
- Whole notes and/or whole rests
- Eighth notes and/or eighth rests

Chord Symbol Accompaniment: The student must be able to accompany the teacher by reading any of the following chord symbols: F, C, G, D, A, A min, D min. Accompaniment can be in root position, but use of other inversions using common tones is encouraged.

Grand Staff Sight Reading: The student must perform two contrasting 8 bar examples in 4/4 or 3/4 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:

- The examples will start in one of the 5-finger pattern required in the technique section above
- Hands together on grand staff
- Examples may include stepwise motion, repeated notes and skips in a triad pattern.
- They may include quarter notes, quarter rests, half notes, half rests, whole notes, whole rests and dotted half notes.
- Staccato and legato markings may be included
- Dynamic markings may be included

Ear Training

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

- Intervals: half steps, whole steps, unisons, octaves
- If a chord and/or musical excerpt is major or minor
- If the excerpt is in 3/4 or 4/4 time
- The difference between staccato or legato
- If the music is played andante or allegro
- Identify by ear, which 2 measure excerpt is played.

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

Performance

The student must perform two contrasting songs (at least 16 measures) Memorization is required for one song. The songs must reinforce the requirements above and should include the following:

- Must use grand staff and include various elements studied at this level
- Most measures should include hands together.
- The 2 songs must be in 2 different keys.
- The songs should be in contrasting styles
- At least one piece must include scales and chords (played melodically or harmonically)

Improvisation: Student must create a melody using a 5-finger scale while the teacher accompanies.

Music Theory

* Suggested Texts: Basics of Keyboard Theory **Preparatory Level and Level 1** by Julie McIntosh Johnson

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

- Signs, Symbols and terms: dynamics, accents, staccato, legato(slur), repeat signs, fermata, tie, rit, D.C. al fine, a tempo
- Note Identification: Must be able to recite the following notes on each staff independently in under 40 seconds:
 - Bass clef: G (bottom line) up to Middle C

- Treble clef: Middle C up to F (top line)
- Circle of 5ths: How it works and the student should be able to label the circle in the first 5 spots.
- Key Signatures: F Major, C Major, G Major, D Major and A Major. Students must be able to find all notes affected by the key signature.
- Time signatures: The student must be able to explain what the top and bottom numbers do, and are expected to know how to count and read and label rhythms in 4/4, 3/4 and 2/4
- Tempos: Andante and Allegro
- Dynamic markings: All from level *pp* plus *mp*, *pp*, *mf* and *ff*. They should also know what happens when we add more *pppp* and more *ffff*
- Intervals: The student must be able to identify unisons, octaves (P8), half steps (m2), whole steps (M2) and non specific qualities for 3rds, 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and 7ths.
- The student must be able to identify all of the above in an 8 measure musical excerpt plus:
 - 5-finger scales they can play (see technique section)
 - Chords written melodically and harmonically
 - Phrases that use repetition and/or imitation
 - Students may be asked to write in beats within the music excerpt

Signs, Symbols and Terms

All from Level Prep plus:

- Time Signatures: Know what each number does (especially the bottom number)
- Key Signatures: C, G, D, A E and A and E minor.
- Accidentals: sharps, flats and naturals
- Dynamics: p, mp, mf, f, crescendo, diminuendo and/or decrescendo
- Triad
- Chord Inversion
- Parallel motion
- Contrary motion
- Parallel Key
- Relative Key