

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
MUA 299 PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAM REQUIREMENTS

I. **TECHNIQUE:** Scales and arpeggios must be played using correct fingering and tempo. In the exam, scales and arpeggios will be selected randomly.

A. Scales: All major or harmonic minor scales, hands separately, two octaves ascending and descending, ♩ = 80, performed in eighth notes.

B. Arpeggios: All major, minor, dominant 7th, and diminished 7th arpeggios, hands separately, two octaves ascending and descending, ♩ = 80, performed in eighth notes.

II. **HARMONIZATION:**

A. With one week of preparation, harmonize a melody provided by the Class Piano Coordinator. Chosen accompaniment texture should include diatonic chords, and secondary function chords may be used if deemed appropriate. Right hand will play the melody; left hand will provide the accompaniment pattern. A blocked chord accompaniment **will not** be considered acceptable.

B. At sight during exam, harmonize a given melody in any major or minor key. The accompaniment should include diatonic chords, and secondary function chords may be used if deemed appropriate. Right hand will play the melody; left hand will provide the accompaniment pattern. A blocked chord accompaniment will be considered acceptable for this portion of the exam.

III. **TRANSPOSITION:**

A. Transpose the *at sight* harmonization example (IIb). Be prepared to transpose both the melody and accompanying chords to a key of the examiner's choosing. The transposition will be within the range of up or down a major third from the original key.

IV. **OPEN-SCORE READING:** A 4-voice choral score will be given at the exam.

A. Be prepared to read at least 8 measures of two non-adjacent voices simultaneously (e.g., soprano in RH and tenor in LH). Voices will be selected by the examiner.

V. SIGHT-READING:

Be prepared to sight-read with the hands played together an example such as those found in *Sight-Reading*, Level 4, by James Bastien, published by Neil A. Kjos Music Co. The performance should remain at a consistent tempo throughout.

VI. PREPARED PIECE: Perform a work of similar difficulty to any of the following:

- Sonatina, Op. 36, No. 1 (1st mvt) by Clementi
- Bagatelle Op. 119, No. 9 by Beethoven
- Minuet in G major, BWV Anh. 116 by J.S. Bach
- Sonatina, Op. 55, No. 1 (1st mvt) by Kuhlau
- Slow Waltz, Op. 39, No. 23 by Kabalevsky

Work does not need to be memorized.

It is recommended that MUA 299 Piano Proficiency Exam be taken at least two semesters prior to expected graduation.

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