PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAM REQUIREMENTS

A. All music students must complete the class piano sequence: Piano I, II, and III (MUS 152A, 153A, and 154A). The final exam of Piano III is the Proficiency Exam that is scheduled during finals week. Students with piano backgrounds may be excused from taking Piano I or Piano I and II. These students should contact the department advisor to schedule a piano placement exam to be administered before fall quarter classes begin. Students taking secondary piano lessons (MUS 171A) are allowed to take the piano proficiency exam with their applied instructor. Music Education majors must take the exam before student-teaching placement is scheduled. All other majors need the exam for graduation. THIS IS CHECKED BY THE EVALUATORS IN THE REGISTRAR’S OFFICE.

The following three items should be prepared well in advance of the exam. You are expected to take the exam as a whole within the allotted 15 minutes.

1. Repertoire:
   • Music Education majors – “The Star-Spangled Banner”
   • Performance Majors - A prepared repertory piece.
   • Bachelor of Arts Majors - A prepared repertory piece.
   • Music Education and Performance (Double major) – “The Star-Spangled Banner” and a prepared repertory piece

The prepared repertory piece should be at the same level of difficulty as the first movement of Clementi’s Sonatina in C Major, Op. 36 No. 1 or a piece approved by a CWU piano faculty member.

You will be expected to play “The Star-Spangled Banner” and/or approved prepared repertory piece fluently, with a constant pulse, at a minimum tempo of about M. M. quarter note = 72. (The tempo of the prepared repertory piece can be different and must be previously approved by a piano faculty member.) It is the first thing you will be asked to do. The inability to do this will stop the exam immediately.

2. Scales: 9 major scales and 9 harmonic minor scales (to four flats and four sharps in each mode.) Perform scales hands separately, two octaves, ascending and descending. Performance need not be fast, but must be fluent and demonstrate knowledge and confidence. Fingering must conform to standard patterns. See a piano instructor or a scale fingering chart, such as in the Class piano text.

3. Cadences: be able to play the following both cadences in the same keys and modes as the scales:
   1) I – IV – I – V7 – I in major and i – iv – i – V7 – i in minor
You will be given music for the next three tasks on the first day of the last week of classes each quarter.

4. Harmonization: You will be given a short, folksong-like tune. Prepare a harmonization with the melody in the right hand and a block chord (as a minimum) accompaniment in the left hand. You may restrict harmonies to the primary chords (I (i), IV (iv), and V). Play in the transposed key as directed. Do not write out the new key.

5. Score Reading: You will be given an open choral score of one or two pages. Prepare so that you can simultaneously play any two voice parts at any place in the score.

6. You will be given several pages of an accompaniment for a choral work or solo vocal piece. Prepare so that you can play the accompaniment without hesitation. You are encouraged to simplify the texture, if necessary, so that you can play an accompaniment that you can do easily, yet will provide the essential musical frame.
The prepared repertory piece should be at the same level of difficulty as the first movement of Clementi’s *Sonatina* in C Major, Op. 36 No. 1 or a piece approved by a CWU piano faculty member.

**SONATINA.**

*Op. 36, No. 1.*

M. CLEMENTI.

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