

MUX 232: KEYBOARD PROFICIENCY EXAM

Fall, 2011

Coordinator: Dr. Beverly Smoker, Rm 73; bsmoker5@naz.edu; 585-389-2696

Adjudicators: Keyboard Faculty

Fall 2011 Keyboard Proficiency Exams will be given on Friday, November 18. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Department Board on Friday, October 21. Full examinations last 15 minutes. Retakes will take 5 -7 minutes.

Course Objectives:

Students will demonstrate proficiency in basic keyboard skills necessary for musicians to function in a professional manner:

Keyboard Proficiency Exam

1. Scales:* (hands together or separately, up and down 2 octaves.)
 - A. All major keys
 - B. Minor keys: c,d,e,f,g,a,b
2. Prepare to play the tenor with each of the other voices of an SATB vocal score.
3. A written piano accompaniment performed with a fellow student as soloist.
- 4 Harmonize a melody requiring the use of both primary and secondary chords:
 - A. Prepared with an interesting accompaniment
 - B. At sight (will employ primary chords only)
5. Improvise 16 measures appropriate for class room demonstration of various meters and tempos (waltz, march, skipping, running). Use of secondary chords is encouraged.
6. Patriotic songs from a written score:*
 - A. Star Spangled Banner
 - B. America the Beautiful, or America
7. Play and sing in two different singable keys (without music)
 - A. Happy Birthday with and melody and chords accompaniment.
 - B. Another commonly used song (i.e. a folk tune, children's song, pop tune, another patriotic song) with a sing-and-strum accompaniment.**

* For students enrolled in piano class or lessons, item 1 and either item 6A or 6 B will be tested in class.

** the exam song will be assigned one week prior to the exam.

Requirements:

All students in the Bachelor of Music degree programs must pass the Keyboard Proficiency Examination. Music Education students must pass the exam before Student Teaching. Music Therapy students must pass the exam before taking their Pre-clinic courses. Students enrolled in Class Piano IV or the equivalent (MUP 2B) must also register for MUX 232. Grades will be recorded as S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory).

Students register for and take the proficiency exam during enrollment in Class Piano IV, MUG 232 or during the fourth semester of piano study. Passing the Keyboard Proficiency Exam is necessary for passing MUG 232. All units of the exam must be passed together; no partial retakes will be given. An opportunity for a complete retake of the exam will be given during the semester-end juries. Additional retakes will necessitate further piano study (MUG 232) along with a repeat registration of MUX 232. All portions of the exam, including the scales, must be performed in a fluent and musical manner. Accompaniments and patriotic songs may be reduced to playable versions, but they must be performed at tempo suitable for singing.

Exam Evaluation:

Passing any of the 7 components on the Keyboard Proficiency exam requires passing all items of the component, and all "yes's" on the evaluation sheet below.

PIANO PROFICIENCY EVALUATION

Name: _____ Email address: _____ Secret Code for Posting: _____

Evaluation Date(s): _____ Teacher _____ Adjudicators: _____

1.	SCALES (tested in class) Fluency correct notes correct fingerings	CATEGORY PASS ___ RETAKE ___
2.	SATB score reading accurate notes accurate rhythms steady tempo	CATEGORY PASS ___ RETAKE ___ Yes No Yes No Yes No
3.	ACCOMPANIMENT: _____ accurate notes accurate rhythms fluency ensemble cohesion	CATEGORY PASS ___ RETAKE ___ Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No
4.	HARMONIZATION PREPARED (employs secondary chords) correct chords "interesting" accompaniment (patterned or complex harmony) fluency AT SIGHT correct rhythms appropriate chord choice minor errors self-corrected	CATEGORY PASS ___ RETAKE ___ Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No
5.	IMPROVISATION (inspire movement in various meters; use a variety of keys) WALTZ 16-bar length; 4-bar phrase structure correct meter, clear metric pulse appropriate rhythmic patterns; coherent chordal progression MARCH 16-bar length; 4-bar phrase structure correct meter, clear metric pulse appropriate rhythmic patterns; coherent chordal progression SKIPPING 16-bar length; 4-bar phrase structure correct meter, clear metric pulse appropriate rhythmic patterns; coherent chordal progression RUNNING 16-bar length; 4-bar phrase structure correct meter, clear metric pulse appropriate rhythmic patterns; coherent chordal progression	CATEGORY PASS ___ RETAKE ___ Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No
6.	PATRIOTIC SONGS (written; approved level of difficulty) note accuracy adequate to lead group singing rhythmic accuracy adequate to lead group singing fluency adequate to lead group singing	CATEGORY PASS ___ RETAKE ___ Yes No Yes No Yes No
7.	PLAY AND SING (must use at least I, IV, and V7) 1. <i>Happy Birthday</i> in 2 keys: melody +accompaniment fluency adequate to lead group singing melodic accuracy adequate to lead group singing rhythmic accuracy adequate to lead group singing correct harmonies 2. <i>Common Song</i> in 2 keys (folk/children/patriotic) sing and strum fluency adequate to lead group singing melodic accuracy adequate to lead group singing rhythmic accuracy adequate to lead group singing correct harmonies	CATEGORY PASS ___ RETAKE ___ Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No