

## PIANO PROFICIENCY FACT SHEET FOR MASTER OF MUSIC STUDENTS

### Preparing for the piano proficiency exam

- ❖ Take Secondary Piano Lessons (1 credit plus \$700 surcharge for eight 60 minute lessons of individual instruction)
- ❖ Practice on your own
- ❖ Find a private teacher or ask a current piano major for some tips
- ❖ Contact Dean Ryczek before the Spring Semester to see if you could receive instruction during the Spring Semester from a piano major involved in the pedagogy class: [karyl.ryczek@longy.edu](mailto:karyl.ryczek@longy.edu)
- ❖ If you have any specific questions regarding the test, you may email Esther Ning Yau, Coordinator of Secondary Piano ([EstherNing.Yau@longy.edu](mailto:EstherNing.Yau@longy.edu)).

### Piano Proficiency Exams:

Sign-up sheets for individual 15-minute appointments will be posted on the Academic Affairs bulletin board (Ray-Waldstein building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor) approximately one week before the dates listed below. Rhaea D'Aliesio will be sending an email to remind you to sign up.

*Friday, September 16 2016, 4:00-7:00 PM*

*Friday, January 20, 2017, 4:15-7:00 PM*

*Wednesday, April 26, 2017, 5:00-9:00 PM*

*Friday, April 28 2017, 5:00-9:00 PM*

### General Guidelines

If you do not attempt the exam in September or January, you will be assigned a test time in the spring of your first year.

- ❖ Even if you know you are very weak at parts of the exam, **you need to attempt all four parts.** *Do not show up without your accompanying partner!* You will not be allowed to take the test without all four sections.
- ❖ If you do not pass all parts, you will not have to re-take the portions that you do pass.

## PIANO PROFICIENCY FACT SHEET (PG. 2)

**Students must attempt all sections every time the test is administered until all sections are passed.** The Piano Skills proficiency exam is divided into four sections. Any of the four parts do not need to be retaken once passed. Students need to be able to demonstrate the following piano skills in order to pass the examination:

### Section I Scales and Arpeggios

- Prepare eight **scales** chosen by the student representing the four fingering groups (2 white-key major, 2 white-key minor [harmonic and melodic], 2 black-key major, 2 black-key minor [harmonic and melodic]) and played **hands together**, legato, with correct standard fingering, two octaves, at a moderate tempo (approximately one note per second). From this group of 8 scales, the panel will select 4 to be played at the exam. For example, C major, E minor, B-flat major, and F-sharp minor.
- All major and minor **arpeggios** played hands together, legato, with correct fingering, at a moderate tempo (approximately one note per second), three octaves.

\*Consult James Bastien: *Scales, Chords & Arpeggios* (Neil A. Kjos Music Company), *The Brown Scale Book* (The Frederick Harris Music Company), or *The Complete Book of Scales, Chords, Arpeggios & Cadences* (Alfred Music Publishing) for standard fingerings.

### Section II

**Two solo classical works** from contrasting time periods, at the intermediate level or higher (one performed from memory), such as:

- Bach: a selection from the *Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach*
- Schumann: a selection from *Album for the Young*, Op. 68
- Bartók: a selection from *Mikrokosmos*, Book II or higher
- Bartók: a selection from *For Children*
- Kabalevsky: a selection from *30 Children's Pieces*, Op. 27
- Prokofiev: a selection from *Music for Children*, Op. 65

### Section III

- **Sight-reading** at early intermediate level (for example, Leopold Mozart: Minuet in F)

### Section IV

- **Accompanying a short piece for your major instrument.** You are expected to identify your soloist, prepare and rehearse with him/her, and bring him/her to your exam. If there is no other performer of your major instrument, then please select a soloist from the same instrumental family. Composition majors may accompany any instrument or voice. Singers may not accompany themselves: the goal of accompaniment is to develop the ability to play well with another person. MAM students may play a jazz standard, accompanying in jazz style for two choruses. Early Music students may play a continuo part with figured bass notation, if they so wish.