

## PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAM

- I. Technique:
  - a. scales of one and two octaves (2 notes =mm. 80), hands separately: all majors and harmonic minors, with standardized fingerings
  - b. Major and minor pentachords (five-finger patterns), hands together or with I-V6/5-I in left hand; all keys; 2 notes=mm. 80
  - c. Broken chord patterns: major and minor triads, to the fifth and to the octave (1-3-5-3-1 and 1-3-5-8-5-3-1), in all keys, hands together
- II. Chord progressions and harmonization
  - a. The chord progression I-IV6/4-I-V6-V6/5-I, hands separately, in all major and minor keys
  - b. harmonization of simple melody at sight, to include I, IV, V, and V7 chords in major and minor keys, utilizing a simple accompaniment pattern in the left hand (i.e. waltz bass, broken chords, etc.)
- III. Sight playing and score reading
  - a. sight-reading of a simple hymn or four-part song, or a simple piece in a homophonic texture, Level 2\* or above
  - b. single-line score reading: one line from the Fugue from the Mozart *Requiem* or "For Unto Us a Child is Born" from Handel's *Messiah* (may be prepared ahead of time)
  - c. double-line score reading: be able to play any two lines from the Palestrina *Sicut cervis* (may be prepared ahead of time)
- IV. Repertoire
  - a. a solo piece from "Easy Classics to Moderns, Vol. 17" or an approved piece of comparable difficulty (i.e., not a piece from a method book). Suggested level: Level 4\*

- Note: Levels refer to those used in *The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature* by Jane Magrath (Alfred, 1995).
- Last updated: Feb. 21, 2006 by M. Cooper