## PIANO PROFICIENCY POLICY

Piano proficiency is required for all majors in Music, Music Therapy and Music Education. The basic functional skills outlined on the following pages must be demonstrated before a degree can be granted.

Since the acquisition of basic keyboard skills is an essential tool for the study of music and the pursuit of any musical career, **ALL Music** and **Music Therapy** majors are expected to pass the piano proficiency requirements by the end of their sophomore year and before a degree can be granted.

Complete Piano Proficiency Packets are available in the file outside the Music and Theatre Office side door. These are the steps to meet the requirements:

- Enroll in Beginning or Intermediate piano classes. Students who have no prior or little keyboard experience are required to enroll in the Beginning MUS 1250 and Intermediate MUS 1251 Keyboard classes. MUS 1250 and/or MUS 1251 are prerequisite to Piano Proficiency class MUS 2200.
- Piano Proficiency class MUS 2200 is designed to pass Piano Proficiency requirements. Piano Proficiency course is offered each quarter and designed for students to pass their keyboard proficiency requirements. A record will be kept as to which items have been passed. When all items have been completed, a completed check-sheet will be placed in your student file.
- **General information about this exam:** Packets for Piano Proficiency exam may be picked up outside the Music and Theatre Office. The complete list of requirements you will find in the next page. Completion of all sections is required, except for students with a keyboard performance emphasis, who will be required to pass items 2, 3, 4, and 5 only. Samples of the test are available from the director of keyboard studies. In some emergency cases, the Piano Proficiency exam can be held individually for the students who did not pass MUS 2200 class or need to complete graduation requirements.

## PIANO PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

#### 1. PREPARED PIECES

(A) Perform two pieces of a level comparable to the following: Clementi or Kuhlau sonatinas; Schumann, Album for the Young. Passing marks will be given only for performances which show careful preparation and which exhibit correct notes, rhythms, dynamics, phrasing; etc.

OR

(B) Vocal, instrumental, and music therapy majors may perform the piano accompaniment for two songs or instrumental pieces appropriate to the student's particular track instead of the piano solo requirement as stated above.

For both of these categories samples of expected levels will be available. The keyboard chairman will have examples of pieces and accompaniments from which you may choose, or you may choose your own piece to work on as long as it demonstrates the appropriate level of keyboard skill.

#### 2. SIGHT READING

Read at sight a composition of intermediate difficulty at a moderate tempo. A polished interpretation is not expected; however, performers must exhibit the ability to keep going with a minimum of incorrect notes or rhythms. Samples will be available.

#### 3. SCALES

Be able to play all major and harmonic minor scales (two octaves) at a moderate tempo using correct fingering. Playing the scales hands separately will be allowed.

### 4. CADENCES (Cadential patterns using primary chords)

Be able to play major and minor cadences in common keys (up to 4#/4b) using the primary chord pattern:  $\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{IV}^{6/4} - \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{V}^6 - \mathbf{V}^{6/5} - \mathbf{I}$ . Playing the cadential patterns hands separately will be allowed.

#### 5. LEAD SHEET HARMONIZATION

**Harmonization using lead sheet notation** - Play and accompany a melody with given chord symbols (lead sheet notation) in the key in which it is notated.

#### 6. TRANSPOSITION

**Harmonization & Transposition** - Harmonize one of the following well-known pieces using at least three different harmonic functions (primary or secondary chords), then be able to transpose it from its notated key to a new given key, chosen by the examiner. You will be asked to transpose the melody and your harmonization only to common keys (no more than four flats or sharps). You may choose one of the following melodies:

- i. Happy Birthday
- ii. Amazing Grace

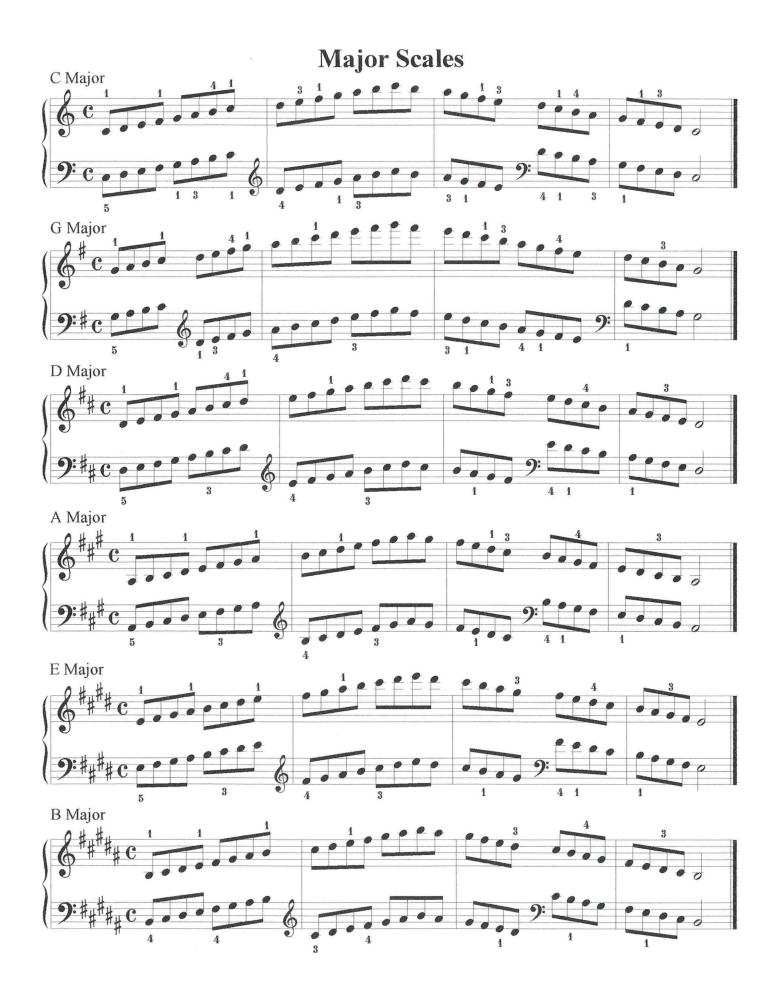
<u>NOTE</u>: Item 6 is a prepared competency. Students may pick up examples to be harmonized and transposed before the test.

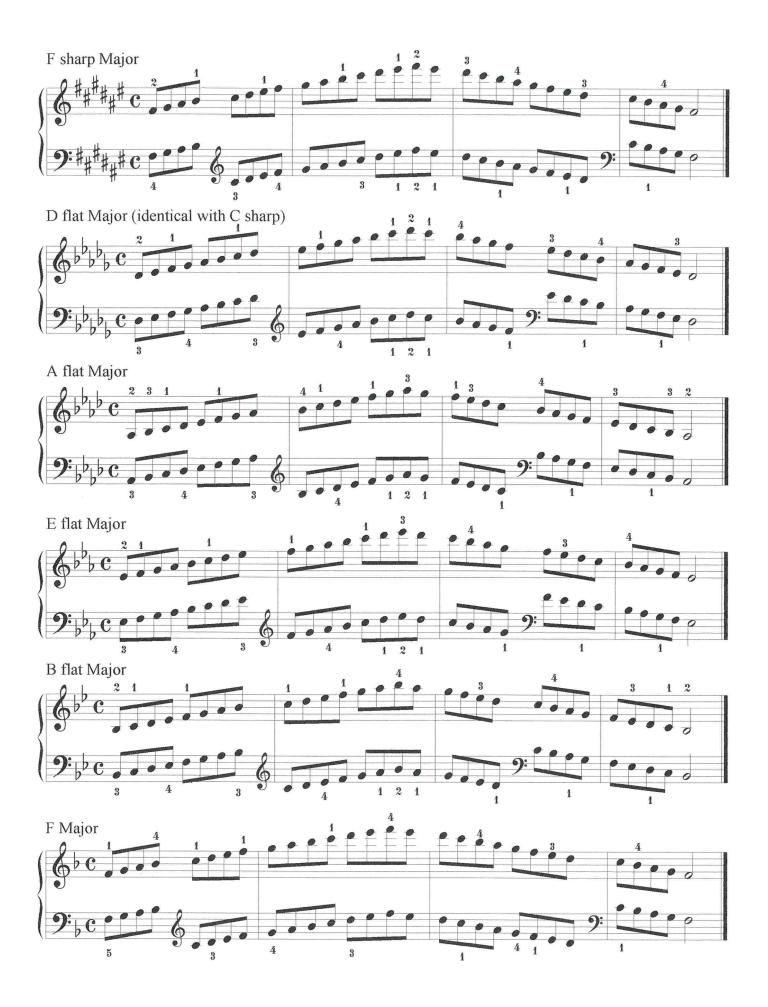
# PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAM CHECKSHEET

Nam	e:							
	proficiency testing began Piano, organ, and harpsichord n							
1. PF	REPARED PIECES							
(Ple	ease list title, composer)							
1)		D	Date Completed:					
<u>2</u> )		D	ate Completed:					
2. SIGHT READING		Date Complete	Date Completed:					
3. SC	ALES	Date Complete	Date Completed:					
Ma	jor Scales	Harmonic Mine	Harmonic Minor Scales					
c	G♭ / F#	a	<b>e</b> ♭					
G	Db	е	<b>b</b> b					
D	<b>A</b> b	b	f					
Α	Eb	f#	c					
E	В♭	c#	g					
В	F	g# / a♭	d					

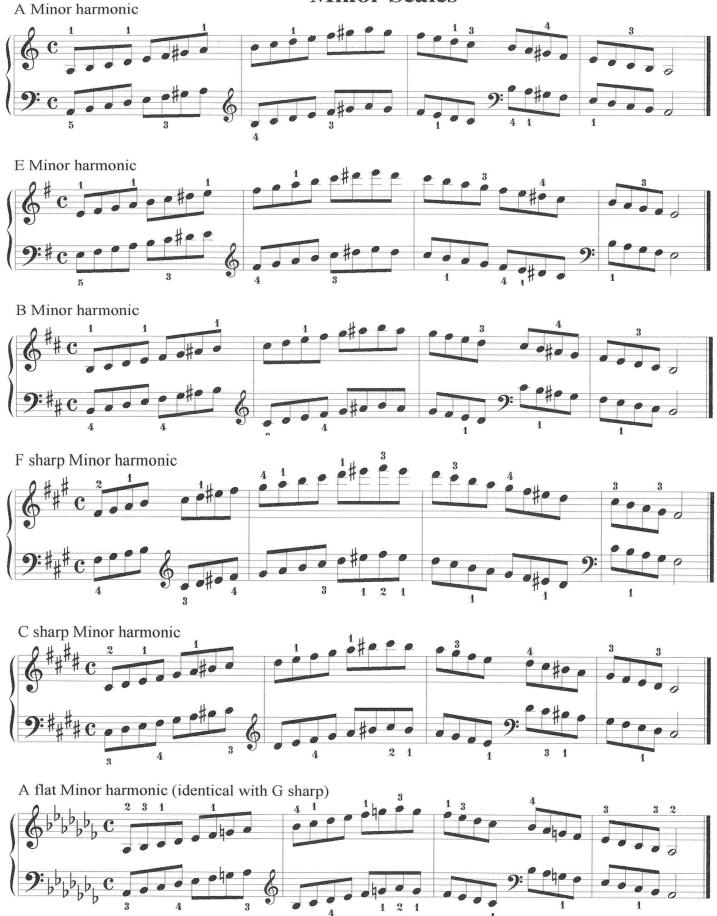
4. CADENCE	Date C	Date Completed:					
Major Caden	terns:		s:				
c	G♭ / F#			а		e♭	
G	Dþ			е		b♭	
D	Ab	_		b		f	_
Α	Εþ			f#		С	_
E	В♭			c#		g	
В	F			g# / a♭	·	d	
5. LEAD SHEE		IONIZATION			eted:		
Date all requir Completed:	ements –						
Certifying Facu Signature:	ulty —						
Certifying Faculty Name:			(Please pr	int)		_	

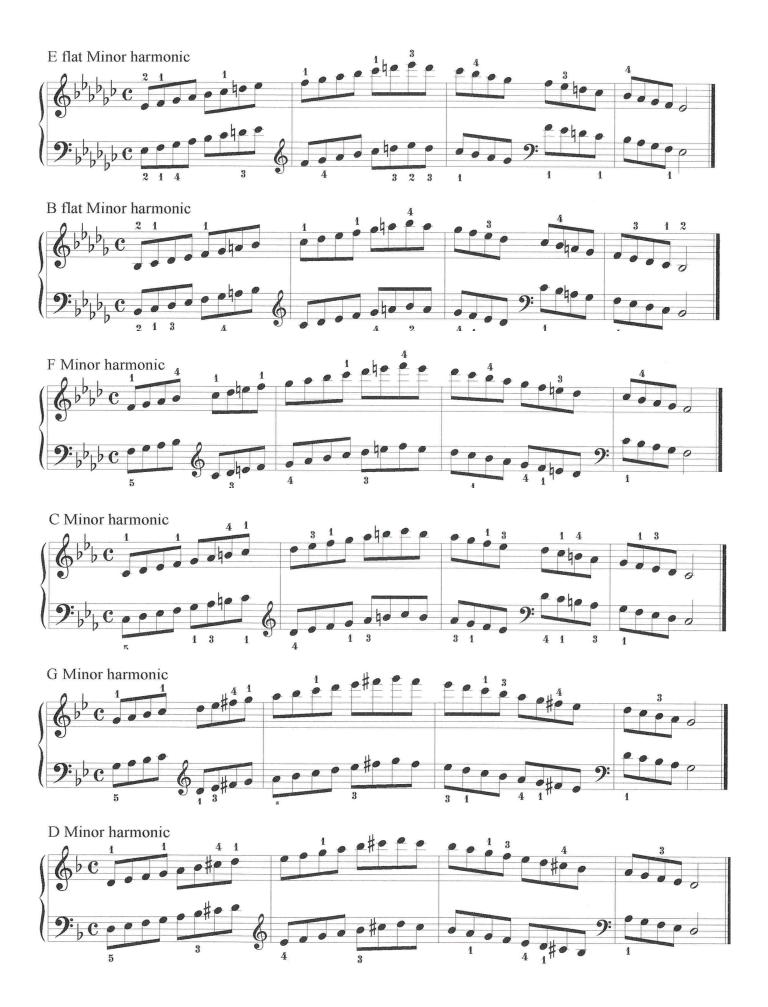
Upon completion of the keyboard proficiency requirements, the faculty member certifying completion of all requirements will submit the signed and dated Proficiency Check sheet to the music office, where it will be placed in the student's file.











# Accompanying a Melody using Chord Symbols

Accompany a melody realizing the letter chord symbols. The example below is a sample of the difficulty level. This is not the example that you will be given for your exam.

## Star-Spangled Banner

