



Music Major Piano Proficiency Exam (Required for all Music Majors, *except* Piano Majors)

Graduating music majors must pass the Piano Proficiency Exam.

Entering music majors with no/limited keyboard skills must enroll in, and successfully complete MSP 190, MSP 191, and MSP 192 (with a grade of B or higher). Those students who have some piano skills upon entering the Music Major program, may request to take the proficiency exam and omit classes altogether. This request is directed to Prof. [Molly Morkoski](#). Directions for making that request are found at the end of this document.

Piano Proficiency Exam requirements:

I. SCALES:

ALL MAJOR scales hands together ascending and descending one octave; correct fingerings and hand position; quarter note = 72 playing in eighth notes.

MINOR SCALES in c, d, e, f, g, a and b minors---natural, melodic and harmonic forms; ascending and descending one octave hands together; correct fingerings and hand position; quarter note = 72 playing in eighth notes.

II. CHORDS:

Play any major or minor triads in all keys listed in I. They should be able to play all inversions of these chords in broken and blocked style.

III. ARPEGGIOS: Any triad from I (above) hand over hand broken style.

IV. REPERTOIRE: TWO prepared pieces chosen by the student, as per the requirements list from the following:

ONE WORK FROM LIST A: A work from the Anna Magdalena Bach notebook, smaller pedagogical pieces from Mozart, Purcell, Bartók, or Kabalevsky; or The Achievement Program Level 1 equivalent, or any work at the NYSSMA level 1-2; Bartok: First Term at the Piano; Mikrokosmos, Book 1; Stravinsky 5 fingers; A work from Denis Agay's "Easy Classics to Moderns" or the equivalent book/anthology.

ONE WORK FROM LIST B: More advanced works from Denis Agay's "Easy Classics to Moderns" or a selection from "Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach" or a movement from one of the easier Clementi Sonatinas. Any work at the level of NYSSMA 1-2, or The Achievement Program Level 1 or 2; smaller pedagogical pieces from Mozart, Purcell, Bartók, or Kabalevsky; Bartok: For Children; Kabalevsky op. 39.

V. SIGHT READING:

Bastien Level 2 should be the reading skills by semester's end; Two voices from choral/hymn score on sight to be provided by the examiner.

If you are ready to be examined, you should notify Prof. [Molly Morkoski](#). When you email Prof. [Morkoski](#), you need to provide the following information:

1. Your 2 choice pieces (titles of piece and composers)
2. Acknowledge that you are able to perform all of the above technical requirements (see I, II, and III).
When you have provided this information to Prof. [Morkoski](#), you will be allowed to sign up for a jury time.

Please make sure that you make this request for examination prior to Thanksgiving Break during the Fall semesters, and before SPRING BREAK in the Spring semesters. Requests made after these deadlines will only be accommodated as room permits.