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

Passing the Piano Proficiency Exam (jury) is a requirement for all Music Majors. As of Fall 2021, students entering Lehman College 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 Lehman College, may request to take the proficiency exam and omit classes altogether. This request should be directed to Professor Molly Morkoski. Instructions are at the end of this document.

Proficiency 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 email Prof. Molly Morkoski at molly.morkoski@lehman.cuny.edu. Please provide the following:

1. Your 2 choice pieces (titles and composers)
2. Acknowledge that you are able to meet the above technical requirements (I, II, and III).

An email will be sent to all students needing to take a piano jury. Juries take place during the last 2-3 weeks of every semester. Please make sure that you make your request for examination prior to Thanksgiving Break during the Fall semester, and before SPRING BREAK in the Spring semester. Requests made after these deadlines will only be accommodated as room permits.