

Functional Piano – Exit Exam Requirements

PREAMBLE

Functional Piano should not be confused with Piano as a Minor Study which will continue as the learning of piano repertoire.

Functional Piano is designed to give all students a basic understanding of correct piano posture and hand positions as well as the ability to use the piano for accompaniment, composition, musicology and harmony purposes.

Functional Piano should be able to be completed by the end of Year 9.

Students can examine out of Functional Piano as soon as they can demonstrate all of the requirements set out below.

Students taking Piano as a Major Study will also be required to demonstrate the requirements below by the end of Year 9. It is assumed that the learning of these skills will take place as part of their weekly instrumental lessons.

Note: All given musical examples describe minimum expectations. Students are free to elaborate upon these.

TECHNICAL WORK

Scales C, G, D, A, F, Bb, Eb major
A, E, B, F#, D, G, C minor (both harmonic and melodic)
Chromatic starting on any white note

2 octaves – Hands together or separately
2 octaves – contrary motion (major and harmonic minor only)

Arpeggios Same keys as above

Root position only
2 octaves – Hands together and separately
Dominant 7ths of any of the above keys (2 octaves)
Diminished 7ths of any of the above minor keys (2 octaves)

Smooth Chord Progressions

I – V⁷ – I

Either around the cycle of 5ths (either up or down) with a transition chord, such as:

Piano

The musical score is in 4/4 time and consists of six measures. The right hand (treble clef) plays chords: G major (G-B-D), F major (F-A-C), E major (E-G-B), D major (D-F-A), C major (C-E-G), and B major (B-D-F). The left hand (bass clef) plays a bass line: G (quarter), F (quarter), E (quarter), D (quarter), C (half), B (half).

or ascending chromatically, such as:

Piano

The musical score is in 4/4 time and consists of six measures. The right hand (treble clef) plays chords: G major (G-B-D), F major (F-A-C), E major (E-G-B), D major (D-F-A), C major (C-E-G), and B major (B-D-F). The left hand (bass clef) plays a bass line: G (quarter), F (quarter), E (quarter), D (quarter), C (half), B (half).

PREPARED REPERTOIRE

- Hymn (eg *St Peter* or similar) – ie Block chords

Musical score for a hymn, consisting of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system is labeled 'Piano' and the second 'Pno.'. Both systems are in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music features block chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system begins with a measure number '5'.

- Bach Chorale with simple moving inner parts or similar

Musical score for a Bach chorale, consisting of three systems of piano accompaniment. The first system is labeled 'Piano' and the second and third 'Pno.'. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with simple moving inner parts. The first system includes first and second endings. The second system begins with a measure number '6' and the third with '10'. The score ends with a double bar line.

- Short 2-part polyphonic piece (eg part of a Bach 2-part invention or a Bartok 2-part piece from *Mikrokosmos* Vol. 2, Nos. 49, 51, 58, 59; Vol. 3 Nos 78, 79, 81, 91 etc. or similar)

- Gilbert & Sullivan style simple chordal accompaniment
Choose one verse from:
 - “When I was a lad” (*HMS Pinafore*)
 - “When I good friends was called to the bar” (*Trial By Jury*)
 - “I rejoice that it’s decided” (*The Sorcerer*)
 - “Sir Rupert Murgatroyd, His Leisure & His Riches” (*Ruddigore*)
 - “The Flowers that Bloom in the Spring” (*The Mikado*)
 - “Prithee, Pretty Maiden” (*Patience*)
 - “What Ought We to Do? Gentle Sisters say!” (*Pirates of Penzance*)
- Simple 12-bar blues accompaniment, such as:

SKILLS (at sight - given a short preparation time)

- Transposition of a short 4 bar passage up or down a semitone or tone

- Given the chords, improvise a simple accompaniment to a folk tune.

5

- Harmonise a simple folk melody

- Realise 4 bars of a simple string quartet piece onto 2 hands.
eg. Haydn – Minuet from String Quartet in F major, Op. 2 No. 4

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

- Sing and accompany yourself (Happy Birthday in F major or the National Anthem in Bb major or similar)
- Sight Reading (approx. Grade 3 AMEB standard)