

Piano Placement Exam Requirements

Examinations will cover the following elements:

1. Sight reading (can include additional examples of choral score reading after 112)
2. Harmonization of a melody
3. Transposition of the melody with harmonization
4. Chord progressions
5. Scales and arpeggios

Terms:

HT = Hands Together
I = Tonic Chord

HS = Hands Separate
IV = Subtonic Chord

M = Metronome Marking
V = Dominant Chord

PIANO 110

Technical Skills:

- Placement Exam: No technical skills required.
- Preparation for PIANO 111:
 - Major and Minor Five Finger Patterns and Chords in white keys, HT.
 - Scales: C, G, and F major, 1 octave, HS.

Harmonization:

- Placement Exam: No harmonization/transposition proficiency required.
- Preparation for PIANO 111: Harmonize a simple melody using tonic and dominant notes.

Sight-Reading:

- A short excerpt similar to examples in the suggested textbook below.
- Students have 30 seconds of shadow play (silent preparation) before playing aloud.

Textbook:

- Alfred's Piano 101 by E. L. Lancaster and Kenon Renfrow
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PIANO 111

Technical Skills:

- Scales: Major and minor (harmonic) in white keys, 2 octaves, HT (M=60).

- Arpeggios: Major and minor in white keys, 2 octaves, HS (M=60).

Harmonization / Transposition:

- Harmonization: Use I, IV⁶₄, V⁶₅ block chords in the LH to harmonize the melody in the RH. Students may play the melody out loud once to choose the most appropriate chords.
- Transposition: Transpose the harmonization example up or down by a Major 2nd.

Sight-Reading:

- A short excerpt similar to examples in the suggested textbooks below.
- Students have 30 seconds of shadow play before playing aloud.

Textbooks:

- Alfred's Group Piano for Adults Book 1 (Units 1-13) by E. L. Lancaster and Kenon Renfrow
 - Four Star Sight Reading and Ear Tests Book 4 by Boris Berlin and Andrew Markow
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PIANO 112

Technical Skills:

- Scales: Major and minor (harmonic) in all keys, 2 octaves, HT (M=60).
- Arpeggios: Major and minor in all keys, 2 octaves, HT (M=60).

Harmonization / Transposition:

- Harmonization: Use I, IV⁶₄, V⁶₅ block chords plus one secondary chord (ii, iii, or vi) with appropriate inversions in the LH to harmonize the melody in the RH. Students may play melody out loud once to choose the most appropriate chords.
- Transposition: Transpose the harmonization example up or down by a step.

Sight-Reading:

- A short excerpt similar to examples in the suggested textbooks below.
- Students have 30 seconds of shadow play before playing aloud.

Textbooks:

- Alfred's Group Piano for Adults Book 1 (Units 14-26) by E. L. Lancaster and Kenon Renfrow
 - Four Star Sight Reading and Ear Tests Book 5 by Boris Berlin and Andrew Markow
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PIANO 113

Technical Skills:

- Scales: Major and minor (harmonic) in all keys, 2 octaves, HT (M=60).
- Arpeggios: Major and minor in all keys, 2 octaves, HT (M=60).
- Arpeggios: Dominant seventh in all keys, 2 octaves, HS (M=60).

Harmonization / Transposition:

- Harmonization: Use I, IV⁶₄, V⁶₅ block chords plus one secondary chord (ii, iii, or vi) with appropriate inversions in the LH to harmonize the melody in the RH. Students may play melody out loud once to choose the most appropriate chords.
- Transposition: Transpose the harmonization example up or down by a step.

Sight-Reading:

- A short excerpt similar to examples in the suggested textbooks below.
- Students have 30 seconds of shadow play before playing aloud.

Textbooks:

- Alfred's Group Piano for Adults Book 2 (Units 1-13) by E. L. Lancaster and Kenon Renfrow
 - Four Star Sight Reading and Ear Tests Book 6 by Boris Berlin and Andrew Markow
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PIANO 114

Technical Skills:

- Scales: Major and minor (harmonic) in all keys, 3 octaves, HT (M=60).
- Arpeggios: Major and minor in all keys, 3 octaves, HT (M=60).
- Arpeggios: Dominant seventh and Diminished seventh in all keys, 2 octaves, HT.

Harmonization / Transposition:

- Harmonization: Use I, IV⁶₄, V⁶₅ block chords plus one secondary chord (ii, iii, or vi) with appropriate inversions in the LH to harmonize the melody in the RH. Students may play melody out loud once to choose the most appropriate chords.
- Transposition: Transpose the harmonization example up or down by a step.

Sight-Reading:

- A short excerpt similar to examples in the suggested textbooks below.
- Students have 30 seconds of shadow play before playing aloud.

Score-Reading:

- A short excerpt with 3 voices (SAB).

Textbooks:

- Alfred's Group Piano for Adults Book 2 (Units 14-26) by E. L. Lancaster and Kenon Renfrow
 - Four Star Sight Reading and Ear Tests Book 7 by Boris Berlin and Andrew Markow
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PIANO 205

Technical Skills:

- Scales: Major and minor (harmonic) in all keys, 4 octaves, HT.
- Arpeggios: Major and minor in all keys, 3 octaves, HT.
- Arpeggios: Dominant seventh and Diminished seventh in all keys, 2 octaves, HT.

Harmonization / Transposition:

- Harmonization: Harmonize the melody with an appropriate accompaniment pattern. Students may play melody out loud once to choose the most appropriate chords.
- Transposition: Transpose the harmonization example up or down by a third.

Sight-Reading:

- A short excerpt similar to examples in the suggested textbooks below.
- Students have 30 seconds of shadow play before playing aloud.

Choral Score-Reading:

- A short excerpt with 4 voices (SATB).

Textbooks:

- Harmonization and Transposition by Kern (ed.)
- Four Star Sight Reading and Ear Tests Book 8 by Boris Berlin and Andrew Markow