

**MUSA 230/MUSA 231 Class Piano III & IV Proficiency Rubric** [Revised Spring 2015]

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Prof. Arthur Houle or Lisa Bush

**Grading** (out of a maximum of 100 points, minus excess absences/tardies):

90 to 100 points = A  
80 to 89 = B

70 to 79 = C\*  
60 to 69 = D

**NOTE:** For Class Piano III, all points on this checklist are doubled. 😊

\* **IMPORTANT:** A final grade of "C" or higher is necessary to satisfy the piano proficiency requirement.  
For Class Piano IV (= full proficiency) you **MUST** earn *at least one point* in *every* component of the repertory (last) section.  
You must also pass *at least one* component of all the other categories.

**Technique**

**Scales, cadences, inversions & arpeggios** (½ pt. per check = 24 points total)

*Alfred Intermediate Musicianship Book pp. 11-25 & 27-41, fluently. Suggested tempo is quarter note = 72.*  
*Houle handouts for scales, arpeggios, cadences & choir warm-up: <http://www.pianofestival.org/prizes/prizeoriginal.htm#techres>*

- **Major Keys** 1 point per key mastered - 12 points total (see Class Pf I/II rubric for best sequencing):  
1<sup>st</sup> check for scale; 2<sup>nd</sup> for arpeggios; 3<sup>rd</sup> for cadences, 4<sup>th</sup> for inversions (¼ pt. each):

C \_\_\_\_\_ G \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ F# (Gb) \_\_\_\_\_  
C# (Db) \_\_\_\_\_ Ab \_\_\_\_\_ Eb \_\_\_\_\_ Bb \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_

- **Minor scales** - easiest to hardest (1/3 pt. per check):  
Demonstrate "blocking" (see pp. 11-13 Houle handout), then play two 8<sup>ves</sup>, hands together, up & down:  
Fm \_\_\_ Bm \_\_\_ Ebm \_\_\_ Bbm \_\_\_ F#m \_\_\_ (after F#m, do easiest arpeggios before continuing with scales, or do all arpeggios before doing any scales) C#m \_\_\_ Abm \_\_\_ Gm \_\_\_ Dm \_\_\_ Cm \_\_\_ Am \_\_\_ Em \_\_\_
- **Minor arpeggios** - easiest to hardest (1/3 pt. per check):  
Demonstrate "blocking" (see pp. 15-16 Houle handout), then play two 8<sup>ves</sup>, hands together, up & down:  
Bbm \_\_\_ Ebm \_\_\_ C#m \_\_\_ F#m \_\_\_ Abm (G#m) \_\_\_ Bm \_\_\_ Cm \_\_\_ Fm \_\_\_ Gm \_\_\_ Am \_\_\_ Dm \_\_\_ Em \_\_\_
- **Minor cadences** – see Houle schematic (preferable) or Alfred Int. Musicianship pp. 27-41 (1/3 pt. per check):  
Cm \_\_\_ Gm \_\_\_ Dm \_\_\_ Am \_\_\_ Em \_\_\_ Bm \_\_\_ F#m \_\_\_ C#m \_\_\_ Abm (G#m) \_\_\_ Ebm \_\_\_ Bbm \_\_\_ Fm \_\_\_
- **"Choir Warm-Up" drill** (see Houle handout): 3 points \_\_\_\_\_  
• **Additional Choir Warm-ups** 2 points each 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- **"Circle of 5ths" drill** (explained in class; refer to p. 42 in Alfred Int. Musicianship Book): 2 points \_\_\_\_\_

**Total technique points (29 points):** \_\_\_\_\_ + **Optional 6** \_\_\_\_\_

**Transposition**

- Transpose a random Section One "Music Machine" melody (or another melody chosen by instructor) up a half step (½ pt.): \_\_\_\_\_
  - Transpose a random Section One "Music Machine" melody (or another melody chosen by instructor) down a half step (½ pt.): \_\_\_\_\_
  - Play Happy Birthday ("Happy Weekend," p. 69 Faber Book 1) in original key and transpose to all other Major keys (¼ pt. each; 3 total): C \_\_\_ C# \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ Eb \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ F# \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ Ab \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ Bb \_\_\_ B \_\_\_
  - Turn Happy Birthday (p. 69 Faber Bk 1) into "Sad Birthday" by transposing it to every minor key (½ pt. each; 6 total): c \_\_\_ c# \_\_\_ d \_\_\_ e-flat \_\_\_ e \_\_\_ f \_\_\_ f# \_\_\_ g \_\_\_ a-flat \_\_\_ a \_\_\_ b-flat \_\_\_ b \_\_\_
  - Major scales & cadences combined (see Piano Marvel; also in print form on p. 43 Alfred Int. Musicianship) Major keys (½ pt. each; 6 total): C \_\_\_ C# \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ Eb \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ F# \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ Ab \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ Bb \_\_\_ B \_\_\_
  - Minor scales & cadences combined (see Piano Marvel; also in print form on p. 43 Alfred Int. Musicianship) (½ pt. each; 6 total): c \_\_\_ c# \_\_\_ d \_\_\_ e-flat \_\_\_ e \_\_\_ f \_\_\_ f# \_\_\_ g \_\_\_ a-flat \_\_\_ a \_\_\_ b-flat \_\_\_ b \_\_\_
  - Transpose Level 2 Piano Marvel song or a Lead Sheet into another key (2 pts each) 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- Total transposition points (19 points):** \_\_\_\_\_ + **Optional 6** \_\_\_\_\_

**Harmonization**

- After you've played "Happy Birthday" ("Happy Weekend," p. 69 Faber Book 1) as written (see above, under transposition), put the entire melody in the R.H. (up one 8<sup>ve</sup>), flesh out the harmonies, and introduce at least one extra and/or creative alternative harmony. Transposition is not necessary.   
 ¼ pt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Get "Flying Trapeze" melody from instructor. Write in "fake chart" chord symbols and fingerings. Practice hands separately at first. Perform with chord pattern accompaniment   
 Correct notes ½ pt. \_\_\_ Steady tempo ½ pt. \_\_\_ Expression (R.H. louder/L.H.very soft) ½ pt. \_\_\_
- Harmonize a random Section 1 "Music Machine" Primer level melody   
 (or equivalent simple melody chosen by instructor, such as those found in Heerema text)   
 ¼ pt. \_\_\_\_\_

**Total harmonization points (2 points) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Sight-reading** (no points carry over from Class Pf I & II for this section)

- Take Piano Marvel SASR test (min. 8 new times- **required**) \_\_\_\_\_ 1 point for each 100 of highest SASR score   
 (e.g., 120 = 1.2; 250 = 2.5, etc.)

**Scores:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Sight-read a four-part closed-hymn harmony (highly recommended for vocalists): \_\_\_\_\_ (0 - 4 pts.)

**Total sight-reading points (2+ points) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Jazz Chord** ([www.pianofestival.org/files/Jazz\\_chord\\_chart.pdf](http://www.pianofestival.org/files/Jazz_chord_chart.pdf)) & **Improvisation Drills**

Triads (½ per key) 7<sup>th</sup> chords (1 point per key):

C \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ F# (Gb) \_\_\_ C# (Db) \_\_\_ Ab \_\_\_ Eb \_\_\_ Bb \_\_\_ F \_\_\_

30-60 second improvisation from lead sheet or piece (2pts) 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total chord drill and improvisational points (22 points) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Repertory: Solos, Playing from a Lead Sheet, and Accompanying**

**IMPORTANT:** One selection from each choice in this category must show *at least ½ point* on each non-optional check-off line in order to pass the piano proficiency.

- Play approved piece (see handout) or Piano Marvel Level 4\*   
 Name or selection: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Selection: \_\_\_\_\_   
 *Do these first:* • Chord analysis written into score \_\_\_\_\_ • Good fingerings \_\_\_\_\_   
 • Demonstrate "blocking" \_\_\_\_\_   
 *Play as written (after doing analysis, fingering & blocking):*   
 Correct notes \_\_\_\_\_ Expression (dynamics, pedals, articulations, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ Steady Tempo \_\_\_\_\_   
 \*Piano Marvel Level 4 (4 pts each) 4A \_\_\_\_\_ 4B \_\_\_\_\_ 4C \_\_\_\_\_ 4D \_\_\_\_\_ 4E \_\_\_\_\_
- Play "fake chart" solos (e.g., Faber Adult Bk 2, p. 26, 40, 50, 60, 71, 82, 98, 106, 118, 130, 140, 152, 164, 174, 184, or other)   
 Name of selection: \_\_\_\_\_   
 Correct notes (0-1) \_\_\_ Expression (dynamics, pedals, articulations, etc.) (0-1) \_\_\_   
 Steady tempo (0-1) \_\_\_ Played with MIDI/CD? (optional: ½ extra point) \_\_\_   
 Name of selection: \_\_\_\_\_   
 Correct notes (0-1) \_\_\_ Expression (dynamics, pedals, articulations, etc.) (0-1) \_\_\_   
 Steady tempo (0-1) \_\_\_ Played with MIDI/CD? (optional: ½ extra point) \_\_\_   
 Name of selection: \_\_\_\_\_   
 Correct notes (0-1) \_\_\_ Expression (dynamics, pedals, articulations, etc.) (0-1) \_\_\_   
 Steady tempo (0-1) \_\_\_ Played with MIDI/CD? (optional: ½ extra point) \_\_\_
- Play accompaniment (vocal or instrumental; approved by instructor & played with soloist). See handout   
 Name of selection : \_\_\_\_\_   
 *Do this first, prior to performance:*   
 • Write in chord analysis \_\_\_\_\_ • Write in good fingerings \_\_\_\_\_ • Demonstrate "blocking" \_\_\_\_\_   
 *Performance :*   
 Correct notes \_\_\_\_\_ Expression (dynamics, pedals, articulations, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_   
 Steady tempo \_\_\_\_\_ Ensemble (together with soloist? good balance?) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total repertory points (Minimum required 8) \_\_\_\_\_**