

Jessica Olson Piano Studio

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Music Theory Achievement Program

Bach Level: Note Recognition

Students will identify all lines and spaces on the treble and bass clef in one minute or less to earn this level. Students will also be asked to correctly locate these notes on the keyboard.

Brahms Level: Five-Finger Scales

Students will play five finger scales using the correct pattern of whole and half steps hands separately and together in all 12 major keys to earn this level.

Chopin Level: Rhythm

Students will write and perform correct counting for progressively difficult short rhythm exercises to earn this level.

Debussy Level: Intervals

Students will correctly identify a minimum of 15 out of 20 major and perfect intervals from unison to octave by ear and on paper to earn this level, as well as demonstrate a basic understanding of terms related to intervals.

Handel Level: Major Scales

Students will perform and correctly finger all 12 major scales hands together in two octaves to earn this level. They will also be asked to demonstrate their understanding of key signatures, the major scale pattern of half and whole steps, and the circle of fifths.

Haydn Level: Minor Scales

Students will play and correctly finger all 12 harmonic minor scales, hands together, to achieve this level. They will also be asked to demonstrate their understanding of melodic and natural minor scales and the relationship of minor and major key signatures.

Mozart Level: Musical Terms and Signs

Students will demonstrate knowledge of commonly used musical terms and signs and complete a written examination on these terms. Students will

receive a comprehensive study guide and their own music dictionary to use during study.

Schubert Level: Chords

Students will identify major, minor, perfect, diminished, and augmented intervals and chords, as well as the most common types of seventh chords to earn this level. They will also be asked to harmonize simple melodies and demonstrate a basic understanding of primary chords, inversions, chord progressions, voice leading, and cadences. The level culminates with the simple analysis of a sonatina and the performance of a lead sheet.

Schumann Level: Music History

Students will study the periods of Western music history, identifying major composers, musical styles, developments, and concurrent historic events. Students will study at least one piece from each musical period and select one (or several) to perform at a group class or recital.

Beethoven Level: Recital or Composition Project

To earn this level, students will prepare and perform a recital featuring at least one piece from each period of music history to be presented to an audience of their choosing. Memorization and professional dress will be expected.

Alternatively, students may choose to compose and present an original piece of music for a recital or group class to complete this level. Compositions must be at least 36 measures in length and must be computer formatted. Software and formatting help will be provided as needed.