

PIANO PLACEMENT AUDITION

Completion of Keyboard Musicianship Level I (PMUS 1105) or Level II (PMUS 1205)

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Directions:

This placement audition is intended for non-piano majors who wish to “test out” of Keyboard Musicianship level I (PMUS 1105) or level II (PMUS 1205). It is intended for students with at least one year of recent piano studies and with a good theory background. This placement audition is optional. You can opt to take the class instead.

Placement exams usually take place in the fall semester before classes begin. It is possible, however, to schedule at other times during the semester as directed by Dr. Cremaschi. Please contact Alejandro.Cremaschi@colorado.edu for questions or to schedule a time.

The placement level will be determined based on your performance of the material below.

Repertoire

Play one or two pieces of your choice. This could be a classical composition, a pop or jazz tune, or an original composition. Portions of pieces are acceptable.

Expectations:

- Playing is fluent and secure
- Musical details such as articulation and dynamics are present
- Pedal (if any) is used correctly and is appropriate to the pieces and style
- Posture and hand position are acceptable and match traditional expectations
- Technique is functional for level of the pieces

Sight-reading

You will be asked to sightread two or three simple short pieces, at increasingly harder level.

Expectations:

- Able to read notes in treble and bass clefs
- Able to decode the rhythm in different meters
- Able to provide a “rough draft” or the piece at first sight
- Performance fluency and accuracy improve after a couple of performances

Technique and theory

Basic expectation:

- Build all major and minor 5-finger patterns (e.g. in D major: D-E-F#-G-A - G-F#-E-D)
- Build all major and minor chords in root position and inversions. Be able to recognize letter notation ("pop chords") and Roman numerals in any major key
- Be able to play the following progression in all “white” major keys, hands separately: I - IV6/4 - I - V6/5 - I
- Be able to play 2 major scales with CORRECT FINGERING, hands together. Two octaves up and down.

Advanced:

- Build all major, minor augmented and diminished chords in root position and all inversions. Be able to recognize letter notation ("pop chords") and Roman numerals in any major key
- Build dominant seventh chords and invert them



- Be able to play any major scale using CORRECT FINGERING. Hands together performance is NOT required (you may play one hand at a time). Two octaves up and down.
- Be able to play the following scales hands together with correct fingering, 2 octaves up and down: G major, E flat major, D flat major and G flat major
- Be able to play the progression I - IV⁶/4 - V⁶/5 – I with two hands together, in all major and minor keys

Harmonization and Transposition

Basic expectation:

- You will harmonize a simple melody like Yankee Doodle or Silent Night. You will play the melody in the right hand, while playing primary chords in the left hand (typically chords I, IV or V – see progressions above).

Advanced:

- Transpose the melody and chords to a nearby key (e.g. up a step)
- Build simple chords (major and minor triads) from a chord chart