

MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Syllabus

Summary Sheet Grid - 10/2023

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	MODULES	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
1	Scales	Major: C G 1 octave HS Minor: Am natural form 1 octave HS Contrary motion: C 1 octave HT MM J=60-100 in J	Major: D A E 1 octave HS Minor: Am natural & harmonic 1 octave HS Contrary motion: G D 1 octave HT MM J=72-100 in J	Major: G D A E F 2 octaves HS Minor: Em Dm natural & harmonic 2 octaves HS Contrary motion: A E 1 octave HT MM J=72-100 in J
	Chord Knowledge	Major: C G - Tonic & Dominant notes HS Minor: Am - Tonic & Dominant notes HS student asked to play EITHER Tonic-Dominant OR Dominant-Tonic NOTES in given key	Major: D A E Root Pos. Triads I & V HS Minor: Am Root Pos. Triads i & V HS student asked to play Tonic OR Dominant CHORD in given key	Major: G D A E F Root Pos. Triads I IV V HS Minor: Em Dm Root Pos. Triads i iv V HS student asked to play a I, IV OR V chord in a given key Ex: "Play the V chord in F Major"
	Cadence Patterns	Keys: C G Am harmonic form HS Open 5th-6th-5th (or 5th-2nd-5th for small hands)	Major: D A E I-V or V7 -I HS Minor: Am i-V or V7-i HS	Major: G D A E F I-IV-I and I-V-I or I-V7-I HS Minor: Em Dm I-iv-I and i-V-i or i-V7-i HS Student asked for "I-IV-I" OR "I-V-I" cadence in given key
	Blocked Chords & Arpeggios	Major: F C G D A E Blocked Tonic Triad HS Arpeggios: Cross-hands	Major: F C G Minor: Fm Cm Gm Blocked & Broken triads and inversions UP only HS	Major: F C G D A E B Minor: Fm Cm Gm Dm Am Em Bm Blocked & Broken triads and inversions UP & DOWN HS
2	Transposition	Original in C major Melody 5 finger Position; 4/4 meter Alternating hands Transpose to white key majors except B <i>Hopscotch</i>	Original in C minor Melody in 5-finger position; 4/4 meter Both hands but alternating Transpose to white key minors except Bm <i>Creeping Cat</i>	Original in G major 5-Finger Positions for both hands; 4/4 meter HT; melody RH; LH tonic and dominant notes Transpose to 12 major keys <i>Lightly Row</i>
3	Rhythmic Reading	clap given rhythm in 2/4 or 4/4 Count and clap the given rhythm out loud (syllabic counting OK)	RH taps given rhythm in 2/4 3/4 4/4 LH taps pulse Count beats out loud (metric counting: 1 2 3 4)	RH taps given rhythm in 2/4 3/4 4/4 LH taps pulse Count out loud
	Sight Reading	Key: C Pentascale position Alternating hands Intervals: Repeated notes, 2nds, 3rds	Keys: C G Cm Gm Pentascale position Alternating hands Intervals: 2nds, 3rds, 5ths NO key signatures-Accidentals used Question: "What is the time signature?"	Keys: G F Am Pentascale position; alternating hands & limited HT Intervals: 2nds 3rds 4ths 5ths Key signatures WILL be used Question: "What is the key of this piece?"
4a	Harmonization	Key: C Pentascale position RH intervals: 2nds, 3rds LH: Open 5th at least once per measure	Keys: C G Pentascale position RH intervals: 2nd, 3rd, 5ths LH: Tonic or Dominant notes	Keys: G F Am RH: pentascale position LH: I & V or V7 blocked chords
4b	Lead Sheet Realization	Key of C 4 measures RH: Pentascale LH: Tonic & Dominant notes	Keys: C G 8 measures RH: Pentascale LH: Open 5ths & 6ths, corresponding to I & V7 chords	Keys: G F Am 8 measures LH: I & V6/5 indicated with slash chords (e.g. G7/B) LH broken chords using quarter & half notes in 4/4 or quarter notes in 3/4 new: slash chords
5	Improvisation	Free improvisation "Finger Painting" Use of any notes OK; both hands must be used Use of contrasting elements required 30-45 seconds	Black Key Improvisation Use both hands Rhythmic ostinato played by judge Student matches mood of ostinato Student must maintains pulse	Keys: G F Am RH only 8 measures Student will sight-read 4-bar "question" and then improvise a 4-bar "answer" Must maintain pulse and end on tonic

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	MODULES	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
1	Scales	Major: G D A E F 1 octave HT Minor: Em Dm natural & harmonic 1 octave HT Contrary motion: Am harmonic 1 octave HT Chromatic: start on C RH up; LH down 1 octave HS MM J=72-100 in J	Major: B Bb Eb 2 octaves HS Minor: Bm Gm Cm natural & harmonic 2 octaves HS Contrary motion: B F 1 octave HT Chromatic: start on C - up and down 1 octave HS MM J=72-100 in J	White key majors 2 octaves HT White key minors natural & harmonic 2 octaves HT Contrary motion: Dm Gm harmonic min 2 octaves HT Chromatic: start on C parallel motion 1 octave HT MM J=60-80 in J
	Chord Knowledge	Major: G D A E F Chords: I or IV or V HT Minor: Em Dm Chords: i or iv or V HT student asked to play a I, IV OR V chord in a given key Ex: "Play the IV chord in G Major"	White key majors I - IV - I - V AND V7 - I HT White key minors i - iv - i - V AND V7 - i HT Keyboard style: RH plays triads & inversions LH plays only chord roots: 1-4-1-5-5-1	White key majors: I - IV - I - V7 - vi HT White key minors: i - iv - i - V7 - vi HT Keyboard style: RH plays triads & inversions LH plays bass line: 1-4-1-5-6
	Cadence Patterns	Major: G D A E F I - IV - I - V or V7 - I HT Minor: Em Dm i - iv - i - V or V7 - i HT	Major: B Bb Eb I - IV - I - V AND V7 - I HT Minor: Bm Gm Cm i - iv - i - V AND V7 - i HT	White key majors I-V-I with inversions HS White key minors i-V-i with inversions HS
	Blocked Chords	Major: G D A E F UP only HS Minor: Em Dm UP only HS Tonic and Dominant; triads and inversions	Major: B Bb Eb UP only HS Minor: Bm Gm Cm UP only HS Tonic, subdominant, dominant; triads and inversions	White key: all majors & minors V7 resolving to I - root position IN the key. For example V7 IN C major and C minor = GBDF
	Arpeggios	White key majors and minors Root position HS 4 note broken tonic chord Up & Down	White key majors Root position Up & Down 2 octaves HS White key minors Root position Up & Down 2 octaves HS	All major keys Root position Up & Down 2 octaves HT All minor keys Root position Up & Down 2 octaves HT
2	Transposition	Original in D minor 5-finger position for both hands; 6/8 meter HT; RH melody; LH Pentascale Transpose to 12 minor keys <i>On the Railroad</i>	Original in C major Level: late elementary; 3/4 meter RH: melody to ^6. LH Chords I IV V7 Transpose to scale degrees 2-7 <i>Lavender's Blue</i>	Original in F minor 2/4 meter; LH chords Transpose to Cm, Dm, Em, Gm, Am <i>Austrian Folk Tune in F minor</i> by L. Kohler
3	Rhythmic Reading	RH tap treble clef rhythm - 2/4 3/4 4/4 LH tap bass clef rhythm Count out loud	RH tap treble clef rhythm - 2/4 3/4 4/4 LH tap bass clef rhythm Count out loud	RH tap treble clef rhythm - 3/8 6/8 LH tap bass clef rhythm Count out loud
	Sight Reading	Keys: G D F Am (harmonic form only) RH: 1-2-1 crossover (Do-Ti-Do) LH blocked chords w/ I & V7 some HT; expect Primary chords in LH Question: "What is the key of this piece?"	Keys: D A F Dm (harmonic form only) RH: expect scale fingering and use of 7th degree below tonic Expect blocked and broken cadence chords in either hand HT in each measure Question: "What is the key of this piece?"	Keys: A E F Em Dm RH: shifting positions LH: broken chords and single notes compound meter Question: "What is the key of this piece?"
4a	Harmonization	Major: G D F Chords: I IV V or V7 Minor: Am Chords: i iv V or V7 RH: 1-2-1 crossover (Do-Ti-Do) and 6th degree LH: I - IV - V or V7 chords	Major: D A F Chords: I IV V or V7 Minor: Dm Chords: I iv V or V7 RH: expect scale fingering. (Minor scale in harmonic form.) LH: I - IV - V or V7 chords	Major: A E F Chords: I IV V or V7 Minor: Em Dm Chords: i iv V or V7 New: more than one chord per measure
4b	Lead Sheet Realization	Keys: G D F Am 8 measures Chords: I IV6/4 V6/5 (with slash chords) LH: Simple Stride pattern new chord: IV	Keys: D A F Dm 8 measures Chords: I IV6/4 V6/5 (with slash chords) RH: embellish RH melody with passing tones/neighbor tones LH: Waltz pattern new skill: embellish RH melody	Keys: A E F Em Dm 8-12 measures Chords: I IV V vi (with slash chords) LH: Alberti bass in 8th notes new chord: vi
5	Improvisation	Keys: G D F Am RH only (no LH required) 4 measures Improvise RH melody using given 4-bar rhythm and pentascale. Notes beyond pentascale are acceptable. Must keep correct number of beats and steady pulse. Must end on the tonic.	Keys: D A F Dm 8 measures HT Improvise RH melodic line over given LH chord progression: LH blocked chord progression: I - IV - I - V - I - IV - I - V - I Must keep a steady pulse.	Keys: A E F Em Dm Meter: 6/8 8 measures HT Sight-read 4-bar "question" phrase which ends on V, then improvise 4-bar "contrasting answer" in RH LH chords: I - IV - V Use minimum of 1 octave range.

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	MODULES	Level 7	Level 8	Level 9
1	Scales	Black key majors 2 octaves HT White key melodic minor 2 octaves HT Contrary: Em Bm Harmonic form 2 octaves HT Chromatic on F# -parallel - up and down 2 octaves HT MM J=60-80 in ♯	All 12 majors 3 or 4 octaves HT White key minors Natural/Harm/Melodic 3 or 4 octaves HT Contrary: Cm Fm Harmonic form 2 octaves HT Contrary: Chromatic starting on any note 2 octaves HT MM J=60-80 3 oct in triplets or 4 octaves in 16ths	White key majors in 10ths 4 octaves HT Black Key - Natural minor 4 octaves HT Contrary: Black key majors 2 octaves HT C Major 2 against 3 (RH triplets 3 oct, LH duples 2 oct) HT MM J=100-112 in ♯
	Chord Knowledge	White key majors: I- IV- ii - V7-I White key minors: i - iv - iio -V7 - i Keyboard style: RH plays triads & inversions (close position) LH plays scale degrees 1-4-2-5-1	White key majors: I-vi-IV- ii - V7 - I White key minors: i-VI- iv- iio-V7 - i Keyboard style: RH plays triads & inversions (close position) LH plays scale degrees 1-6-4-2-5-1	12 majors: I - IV - ii6 -I6/4 - V7 - I White key minors: i - iv - iio6 - i6/4 -V7 - i Keyboard style: RH plays triads & inversions (close position) LH plays bass line: 1-4-4-5-5-1
	Cadence Patterns	White key majors: I-IV-I with inversions HS White key minors: i-iv-i with inversions HS	12 majors: I-V-I with inversions HT White key minors: i-V-i with inversions HT	12 majors: I-IV-I with inversions HT White key minors: i-iv-i with inversions HT
	Blocked Chords	Dim. 7th root position - resolve to i - white key minors For example vii07 in C minor: BDFAb HT	All major/minor keys V7 root position IN any key and ON any note HT	Diminished 7th root position on any given key HT Starting on any key, play 5 dim7 chords chromatically up only
	Arpeggios	All major and minor keys 2 octaves HT 1st inversion - up and down	All major and minor keys 3 octaves HT 2nd inversion - up and down	All major and minor keys 3 or 4 octaves HT Root position, 1st & 2nd inversions - up and down
2	Transposition	Original in F Major 3/4 meter; scale fingerings; shifting positions Scale degree names will be used Transpose to G, A, Bb, C, D, E <i>Waltz, Op. 70, No. 40, by Berens</i>	Original in D Minor Level: intermediate; 4/4 meter Scale degree names will be used Transpose to Em, Fm, Gm, Am <i>Norma's Aria by Kohler Op. 234, No. 12</i>	Original in D major Level: intermediate; 3/4 meter Scale degree names will be used Transpose 1 Whole-Step & 1 Half-Step Higher & Lower <i>Hymn by Kirkpatrick</i>
3	Rhythmic Reading	RH tap treble clef rhythm - 2/4 3/4 4/4 LH tap bass clef rhythm Count out loud	RH tap treble clef rhythm - 3/8 6/8 LH tap bass clef rhythm Count out loud	none
	Sight Reading	Keys: D A F Em Gm Sonatina style with 16th notes Question: "What is the key of this piece?"	Keys: A E Bb Dm Gm Compound meter with 16th notes Question: "What is the key of this piece?"	Keys: A E Bb Em Bm Complex rhythms with triplets and ties Question: "What is the key of this piece?"
4a	Harmonization	Majors: D A F Chords: I IV V or V7 vi Minors: Em Gm Chords: i iv V or V7 VI Melody will extend up to an octave in range use of vi/VI as deceptive cadence	Majors: A E Bb Chords: I ii IV V or V7 vi Minors: Dm Gm Chords: i ii iv V or V7 VI Melody will extend up to an octave in range vi/VI as deceptive cadence. ii/iio as pre-dominant	Majors: A E Bb Chords used: I ii IV V or V7 vi Minors: Em Bm Chords used: i iio iv V or V7 VI Example: I-vi-IV-ii-V-V7-vi-IV-V-V7-I
4b	Lead Sheet Realization	Keys: G D A F Chords: I ii IV V7 vi (with slash chords) LH: Stride with alternating bass notes new chord: ii	Keys: Em Dm Gm (Minor tonality) Chords: i III iv V7 VI RH: embellish melody LH: broken chord style new chord: III	Keys: A E Bb Em Bm Chords: I IV V7 RH: Play melody + one additional chord tone LH: simple blocked chords acceptable new skill: RH playing harmonic intervals
5	Improvisation	Keys: G D F 12 measures HT 12-Bar Blues RH: blues scale improv w/call & response style LH: ostinato pattern in quarter notes	Keys: G D F Am Theme + 8 measures HT Sight-read theme and improvise 1 variation over LH chords Use passing tones and neighbor tones LH blocked chords: I IV V7 Each variation is 8 measures Theme in either 3/4 or 4/4	Keys: A E Bb Em Bm 8 measures HT Improvise melody over given chord progression Chords: I ii, IV, V vi LH blocked chords

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	MODULES	Level 10	Level 11	Level 12
1	Scales	Black key majors in 10ths 4 octaves HT Black Keys - Harmonic minor 4 octaves HT G Major 3 against 2: LH triplets 3 oct.- RH ♩ 2 oct. HT MM ♩=112-120 in ♩	White key majors in 6ths 4 octaves HT Black keys - Melodic minor 4 octaves HT B Major 2 against 3: LH ♩ 2 oct.- RH triplets 3 oct. HT MM ♩=60-66 in ♩	Black key majors in 6ths 4 octaves HT White key harm min solid OR broken octaves 2 octaves HT F Natural Minor 3:2 (LH triplets 3 oct.- RH ♩ 2 oct.) HT MM ♩=60-66
	Chord Knowledge	White key majors: Modulation to the dominant HT I - IV - V - vi=ii - I6/4 - V7 - I Keyboard style: RH plays triads & inversions close position	White key minors: Modulation to relative major HT i - V7 - i - VI=IV - ii6 - I6/4 - V7 - I Keyboard style: RH plays triads & inversions close position	White key majors: I - IV - viio - iii - vi - ii - V - I HT Keyboard style: RH plays in close position LH plays scales degrees: 1-4-7-3-6-2-5-1
	Cadence Patterns	12 majors: I-IV-I-V-I and inversions HT 12 minors: i-iv-i-V-i and inversions HT	White key majors: I-IV-ii-V7-I and inversions HT	White key minors: i-iv-iio-V7-i and inversions HT
	Blocked Chords	V7 root position and inversions ON any key HT up only	Seventh chords on any white key: HT Maj7, Dom7, Min7, Half-dim7, Dim 7	Seventh chords – Maj7, Dom7, Min7, Half-dim7, Dim7 HT on any black key – HT
	Arpeggios	All major & minor keys HT 4-note octave broken chords Root position and all inversions 2 oct up & down	V7 - Root position start on any note 4 octaves HT Diminished 7th-starting on any note 4 octaves	V7 - All keys - all inversions 4 octaves HT Student will be asked to either play V7 "In the Key of..." or "Start on the note of..."
2	Transposition	Original in E major Sonata with modulation; 2/4 meter; Transpose to: F, G, A, C, D Becwarowsky <i>Sonata No. 3</i>	Original in A major Transpose to: G, Ab, Bb, B 19th-century song accompaniment Schubert <i>Abendlied</i>	Original in A major Transpose to: B F Bb Eb 4-part chorale; 4/2 meter La Feillee <i>Chorale</i>
3	Rhythmic Reading Sight Reading	none Keys: D A F Bm Cm Waltz style	none Keys: D A E Gm Cm contrapuntal - 2 voices	White key majors and minors 20th Century style expect dissonance and accidentals
4a	Harmonization	Major: D A Eb Chords: I I6/4 ii ii6 IV V or V7 vi Minor: Bm Cm Chords: I i6/4 iio iio6 iv V or V7 VI Ex: I-vi-IV-ii-V-V7-vi-ii6-I6/4-V7-I new: use of ii6/iio6 as pre-dominant	Keys: C to G, G to D, D to A, F to C Modulation to Dominant using pivot chord vi=ii Example: I-vi-IV-ii-V-V7-vi=ii-ii6-I6/4-V7-I	Keys: Am to C, Em to G, Dm to F, Bm to D Modulation to relative major using pivot chord VI=IV Example: i-VI-iv-iio-V-V7-VI=IV-I6/4-V7-I
4b	Lead Sheet Realization	Keys: G D A F Chords: I ii7 IV V7 RH octaves+chord tone LH: arpeggiated chords with octave span new chord: Min7	Keys: C D A F Chords: dim & aug triads in root position RH: swing rhythm; melody will have syncopation LH: blocked chords new chords: diminished and augmented triads	Keys: C G D F Chord progression with 7th chords RH: swing rhythm LH: "rhythm changes" (chords from "I Got Rhythm")
5	Improvisation	Modal melodic improvisation HT Judge will choose from the following modes: D, A or G Dorian; G, C or D Mixolydian Judge gives mood and tempo Show understanding of mode; express given mood	Keys: D A E Gm Cm 8 measures HT Melodic improvisation over chord progression w/modulation I - V7 - I - vi=ii6 - I6/4 - V7 - I LH blocked chords	Keys: D A E F Theme + 16 measures HT Theme and Variations Embellish melody in 4/4 w/LH chordal accompaniment Judge will ask for 2 of following: waltz, march, sonatina 1 variation in major and 1 in parallel minor