# **UME Piano – Grade 4**



## Repertoire

3 pieces are required in total

Minimum 1 set piece from the lists below, plus up to 2 free choice pieces \* One set piece may be a duet from the list below.

## Solo set pieces:

Free PDF and MP3 on the UME Piano Syllabus page:

- 'Sherbet Shuffle' M. Madder
- 'After The Storm' M. Madder

## Other Set pieces:

- 'Clockwork Doll' D. Shostakovich
- 'Jaunty' C. Norton
- 'Shepherd with a Pipe' E. Moy
- 'Harmony of the Angels' J. F. Burgmuller. No 21 from Op 100
- 'Cool Bananas' E. Milne

\*Free Choice Pieces may be from any source. The Free Choice Piece should be of a similar length and difficulty as the Set Pieces, with articulation, dynamics & phrasing indicated on the score. Pieces listed for Grade 4 with other examination syllabi are welcome. Music purchased online in any style is welcome. Minimum ONE set piece - students may choose to perform 2 or 3 set pieces rather than using free choice material.

# Set pieces – Duets

One of the following duets may be presented as one of the set pieces. Free PDF and audio file on the UME Piano Syllabus page:

- 'Poco Trenzar' M. Madder (primo or secondo)
- 'Skye Boat Song' Trad. Arr M. Madder (primo or secondo)

The duet partner may be a fellow student, sibling, parent or teacher. For video submission the partner should only appear for the duet performance. For in person exams, the partner will be invited in for the performance of the duet only.

# Technical Work

a) Similar Motion Scale - in the key of the Set Piece, Hands Together, Four Octaves, Legato

- b) Contrary motion scale: 2 or 3 Octaves in the key of one of the Free Choice Pieces
- c) Chromatic Scale: 4 Octaves, hands together, beginning on a note of the student's choice
- d) Arpeggio: 4 octaves, hands separately in any key, ascending and descending
- e) Free Choice Scale\*, Hands Together, Four Octaves preferred.

\*This may be in the key of the third piece or may be ANY key or mode chosen by student and teacher. We encourage curiosity around keys and scales and welcome creativity. The Free Choice Scale may be legato, staccato or any other articulation which should be announced by the student.

# General Knowledge

The student is to prepare a simple, short explanation of musical elements from one 'Free Choice' Piece. The student will place a copy of the piece on the music rest of the piano and name and briefly explain as they point to:

- The Time Signature (eg 'This is the time signature, which tells us how many beats are in each bar. The time signature for this piece is 6/8 which means there are 2 dotted crotchet beats in each bar and the quavers are often in groups of 3. 6/8 is known as 'Compound Duple Time' ')
- The Key Signature
- 3 dynamic or articulation markings
- Any interesting indications
- A few sentences about the composer
- A few sentences about the piece or the title
- A description of the style
- An overview of the form

## Essential Skills

'Essential Skills' Material will be emailed 10 days prior to the exam. Students are expected to play through the example once or twice before the exam but not to 'learn' it as they would a piece.

Please see the Piano Syllabus page for 'Essential Skills Examples' to use in lessons as preparation. Start at Junior Plus and work through each level (this progressive course finishes at grade 3).

The following examples are an indication of Grade 4 level.

Whilst we encourage all students to experience Sight Reading AND Improvisation AND Transposition, for exam purposes the student chooses ONE of the following:

'Quick Study' Grand Stave, 2 hands, 8 bar piece in either A, D or E minor, with basic dynamics and articulation eg:



#### Or

## 'Improvisation'

Simple Melody over LH Chord Pattern in quadruple time

The given chord progression will be 8 bars with one chord per bar, consisting of chords 'I, IV, V (or V7)' in any order eg:

I V7 I IV I V7 V7 I

# The student may choose the key.

First play the progression as 'block' chords as written (this example is in F major)
NB – chords may be in any inversion and the use of V or V7 is at the discretion of the teacher



The student then plays the chords again, whilst improvising a simple melody over the top eg:



#### Or

## 'Transposition'

Students will be given a simple grand Stave (2H) piece in C major eg:



Students play the piece once in the original key and then in 2 other major keys of the students' choice.

#### Or

#### 'Composition'

Students may perform their own composition for piano in any style. Duration must be between 1 and 2 minutes. Basic notation is required – this is not marked but must be included to assist the examiner in marking useful comments on the report. For Video exams, compositions are submitted at the same time as PDF scores for free choice pieces and may be handed to the examiner for an in person exam.

## Scores

Submission of the score is not required for the Set Piece but is compulsory for Free Choice Pieces. For in person exams, a copy of the Free Choice Piece is to be presented to the examiner. For Video Exams, a PDF of the piece is to be attached to the video submission. Teachers are responsible for adhering to copyright guidelines and a 'Copyright Declaration Form' must be attached with the PDF (this form will be emailed as part of the booking process).

#### **Notes**

**Exam content is identical** regardless of 'in person' or 'video submission'.

**Performance from memory** is encouraged for repertoire. Memory work is not specifically rewarded but will be noted and contributes toward overall impression.

All Pieces must be introduced by **Title and Composer**.

Students may have a 'run sheet' with the order in which they are presenting their exam material. The exam is not testing the student's ability to remember the order of the entire program but rather their delivery of it. Whilst good announcements are appreciated, this is not an examinable skill in the syllabus. Therefore, if announcements present a problem due to language or any other issue, a teacher or parent may announce each part of the exam in a video exam. For in person exams, the examiner will assist in making the transition from one section to the next.

The student may perform the entire exam in the order of their choice. For example, a student may present pieces followed by technical work then General Knowledge and so on, or they may prefer to begin with their General Knowledge and then begin to play. Any order is fine so long as announcements are clear eg 'I am going to begin with General Knowledge' and 'My first piece is 'Study' etc.