

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
School of Music**

**MUS 172 – Group Piano I for music majors**

**PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION INFORMATION**

To receive proficiency credit for MUS 172, the student must be able to pass a comprehensive keyboard examination displaying a good balance between keyboard and theory skills.

**Procedures**

1. Obtain the current text for the course (see required materials below).
2. Thoroughly prepare and practice all areas outlined on this sheet.
3. Sign up for a 10-minute proficiency exam according to the posted schedule:  
<http://publish.illinois.edu/musicresources/undergrad-placement-and-proficiency/>
4. Piano proficiency exams will be held in the Music Building, room 0302.
5. Students with considerable piano background are strongly encouraged to take the MUS 172 proficiency exam no matter their theory background.
6. All incoming students who opt not to take the proficiency exam need to register for the group piano sequence during their freshman year (MUS 172, MUS 173). Students who successfully pass the MUS 172 proficiency exam should register for MUS 173 in the spring semester of their freshman year.

**Required Materials (available at the University of Illinois Bookstore)**

KMI: *Keyboard Musicianship: Piano for Adults (Book I, 10<sup>th</sup> edition)* by Lyke, Alexander, Caramia, and Haydon. The text can also be ordered directly through Stipes Publishing at 217.356.8391 or <http://www.stipes.com>.

**MUS 172 Proficiency Exam Materials**

**(1) Harmonization**

1. Chord progression I-IV6/4-I-V6/5-I, as seen on the bottom of page 180, all major keys.
2. Harmonize examples 1-4 (pages 135-136) and 1-6 on pages (143-145).

**(2) Transposition**

Transpose as indicated examples 1-8 on pages 146-149.

**(3) Sight-reading**

Sight-read examples at the level of those on pages 102-105.

**(4) Key Signatures and Chord Patterns**

1. Identify all major key signatures (page 78).
2. Build all minor triads and their inversions (bottom of page 172).
3. Be able to play the tonic and dominant triads in any major key (page 89).

**(5) Technique**

1. Play all major and minor five-finger patterns (bottom of page 125).
2. Build for one octave any major or harmonic minor scale (see *Appendix B*, pages 359-367).
3. With correct fingering, play major scales and arpeggios hands together, two octaves in eighth-notes (quarter note = 80). Keys of C, D, E, F, G, A, B, D-Flat (see *Appendix B*, as well as the fingering chart on page 215).

**(6) Piano Ensemble and Accompanying**

Play the student part on pages 150-151 and 160-161.

**(7) Solo Repertoire**

1. Demonstrate proper use of the damper pedal by playing *Crosses* on page 170.
2. Fluently perform compositions within the repertoire section on pages 162-169.