

## PIANO BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

The Piano Basic Skills Test is a graduation requirement for all BM, BME, and BA degrees.

The test consists of four sections:

### **Repertory:**

Students will perform two pieces, of lower intermediate level (IMTA repertoire level B), and of contrasting character or style. Repertoire will be chosen from pieces learned during the term (memory optional). Students have the option of substituting a prepared accompaniment for one of the pieces if the requirements for length, style, and difficulty are met.

### **Hymns/4 part playing:**

Students will prepare two simple accompaniments, hymns, or other pieces in four-part harmony. In addition, students will receive a four-part score excerpt two days before the test and will be asked to play two of the four parts in the test. (Parts will be chosen during the examination by the committee.)

### **Harmonization:**

Students will:

1. Play primary chords in root position in any major or minor key, hands together or hands separate (I-IV-V-V7-I).
2. Harmonize at the keyboard simple melodies in major and minor keys using I, IV, V or V7 chords in block accompaniment. This element of the exam will be sight-read.
3. Prepare a harmonization with a two-handed accompaniment pattern and sing melody while playing.

### **Technique (scales):**

Play (in 2 octaves, hands separately) selected major and harmonic minor scales and arpeggios up to three sharps/three flats (scales will be chosen during the examination by the committee).

Students are expected to review all scales and arpeggios during the semester.

The Basic Skills Test is given only at the end of the Fall and Winter Terms. Two to four members of the piano faculty jury the exams and notification is sent to the student, his/her advisor, and the registrar upon completion of the exam. During the test, a student who realizes that he/she has played something incorrectly may request a second attempt. Students who did not pass entire exam may request comments in order to improve for retake. A record of completion is kept in the music office as well.