

Piano

2022 Edition

Syllabus Supplement

Examples for Ear Tests (Melodic Improvisation) and
Sight Reading (Lead Sheet Reading) for Level 5 to Level 10



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The following examples for ear tests (melodic improvisation) and sight reading (lead sheet reading) illustrate the parameters and expectations at each progressive level of The RCM Certificate Program (from Level 5 through Level 10) as outlined in the *Piano Syllabus, 2022 Edition*.

Level 5

Ear Tests (Examples)

Playback (Melodic Improvisation)

Students may choose to play back a given four-measure question phrase and improvise an answer phrase to create an eight-measure parallel period. The examiner will identify the key and time signature, play the tonic chord *once*, and play the question phrase *three* times.


1



2



3



4



Sight Reading (Examples)

Playing (Lead Sheet Reading)

Students may choose to read a lead sheet (with a melody and root/quality chord symbols) and realize an accompaniment based on the chord symbols provided. Harmonic vocabulary will be aligned with the chords presented for study in Level 5 Theory in the *Theory Syllabus*.

1

Andante

Chord symbols: B \flat , E \flat , F, B \flat , E \flat , F, E \flat , B \flat

2

Moderato

Chord symbols: D, A, G, A, D, G, A, D

Moderato

3

F C B \flat C

5

F B \flat C7 F

Andante

4

Em Am Em B

5

Em Am Em B Em

Level 6

Ear Tests (Examples)

Playback (Melodic Improvisation)

Students may choose to play back a given four-measure question phrase and improvise an answer phrase to create an eight-measure parallel period. The examiner will identify the key and time signature, play the tonic chord *once*, and play the question phrase *three* times.

1

Musical notation for example 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature, key signature of one flat (Bb). The question phrase is a four-measure melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to Bb4, then down stepwise to G4, and ending on a whole note G4. The answer phrase is an improvised four-measure melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to Bb4, then down stepwise to G4, and ending on a whole note G4. The entire eight-measure phrase is bracketed together.

2

Musical notation for example 2: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature, key signature of one flat (Bb). The question phrase is a four-measure melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to Bb4, then down stepwise to G4, and ending on a whole note G4. The answer phrase is an improvised four-measure melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to Bb4, then down stepwise to G4, and ending on a whole note G4. The entire eight-measure phrase is bracketed together.

3

Musical notation for example 3: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, key signature of one flat (Bb). The question phrase is a four-measure melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to Bb4, then down stepwise to G4, and ending on a whole note G4. The answer phrase is an improvised four-measure melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to Bb4, then down stepwise to G4, and ending on a whole note G4. The entire eight-measure phrase is bracketed together.

4

Musical notation for example 4: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature, key signature of one sharp (F#). The question phrase is a four-measure melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to B4, then down stepwise to G4, and ending on a whole note G4. The answer phrase is an improvised four-measure melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to B4, then down stepwise to G4, and ending on a whole note G4. The entire eight-measure phrase is bracketed together.

Sight Reading (Examples)

Playing (Lead Sheet Reading)

Students may choose to read a lead sheet (with a melody and root/quality chord symbols) and realize an accompaniment based on the chord symbols provided. Harmonic vocabulary will be aligned with the chords presented for study in Level 6 Theory in the *Theory Syllabus*.

1

Andante

Chord symbols: Gm, Cm, F, B \flat , Eb, Cm, D7, Gm

2

Moderato

Chord symbols: G, C, D, Em, C, D, Bm, Em, C, D, G

Moderato

3

B \flat Eb F Gm

5

E \flat Cm F7 B \flat

Moderato

4

Dm Gm C F

5

B \flat C Dm A7 Dm

Level 7

Ear Tests (Examples)

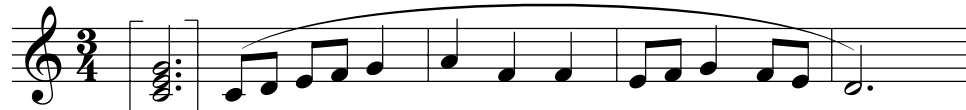
Playback (Melodic Improvisation)

Students may choose to play back a given four-measure question phrase and improvise an answer phrase to create an eight-measure contrasting period. The examiner will identify the key and time signature, play the tonic chord *once*, and play the question phrase *three* times.

1



2



3



4



Sight Reading (Examples)

Playing (Lead Sheet Reading)

Students may choose to read a lead sheet (with a melody and root/quality chord symbols) and realize an accompaniment based on the chord symbols provided. Harmonic vocabulary will be aligned with the chords presented for study in Level 7 Theory in the *Theory Syllabus*. Students are encouraged to provide creative accompaniments appropriate to the style of the given melody

1 **Moderato**

Chord symbols: A, E, F#m, D, A, E, Bm, E7, A

2 **Andante**

Chord symbols: A, E, F#m, C#m, D, A, Bm, E7, A

Moderato

3

B \flat Eb A $^{\circ}$ Dm

5

Gm Cm F7 B \flat

Andante

4

Cm A \flat B \flat E \flat

5

Fm Cm D $^{\circ}$ G7

9

A \flat Cm G7 Cm

Level 8

Ear Tests (Examples)

Playback (Melodic Improvisation)

Students may choose to play back a given four-measure question phrase and improvise an answer phrase to create an eight-measure contrasting period. The examiner will identify the key and time signature, play the tonic chord *once*, and play the question phrase *three* times.

1

2

3

4

Sight Reading (Examples)

Playing (Lead Sheet Reading)

Students may choose to read a lead sheet (with a melody and root/quality chord symbols) and realize an accompaniment based on the chord symbols provided. Harmonic vocabulary will be aligned with the chords presented for study in Level 8 Theory in the *Theory Syllabus*. Students are encouraged to provide creative accompaniments appropriate to the style of the given melody

1

Moderato

Chord symbols: Cm, Fm, Bb, Eb, Ab, D°, G7, Cm, Fm, Cm/G, G7, Cm, Fm/C, Cm

2

Moderato

Chord symbols: Eb, Bb/D, Cm, Ab, Eb/G, Ab, Fm, Bb7, Ab, Eb/G, Fm, Bb7, Eb, Ab/Eb, Eb

Andante

3 Musical staff 1 for exercise 3, measures 1-4. Chords: Gm, D, Eb, Bb.

5 Musical staff 2 for exercise 3, measures 5-8. Chords: Cm, Gm/Bb, A°/C, D7.

9 Musical staff 3 for exercise 3, measures 9-12. Chords: Cm, F, Bb, Eb, D7, Gm.

Allegretto

4 Musical staff 1 for exercise 4, measures 1-4. Chords: Bm, F#7, G, D.

5 Musical staff 2 for exercise 4, measures 5-8. Chords: Em, Bm, A#°7, Bm.

9 Musical staff 3 for exercise 4, measures 9-12. Chords: Em, D, F#7, Bm.

Level 9

Ear Tests (Examples)

Playback (Melodic Improvisation)

Students may choose to play back a two-measure opening, complete the question (antecedent) phrase, and improvise an answer (consequent) phrase to create an eight-measure contrasting period. The examiner will identify the key and time signature, play the tonic chord *once*, and play the two-measure opening *three* times.

1 

2 

3 

4 

Sight Reading (Examples)

Playing (Lead Sheet Reading)

Students may choose to read a lead sheet (with a melody and root/quality chord symbols) and realize an accompaniment based on the chord symbols provided. Harmonic vocabulary will be aligned with the chords presented for study in Level 9 Theory in the *Theory Syllabus*. Students are expected to provide creative accompaniments appropriate to the style of the given melody

1

Andante

Ab Eb/G Db/F Ab/Eb Db Ab/C Bb7 Eb7

5

Fm Cm Db Ab Bbm7 Ab/C Eb7 Ab

2

Andante

F Dm Bb C7 F G7/F C7/E C7

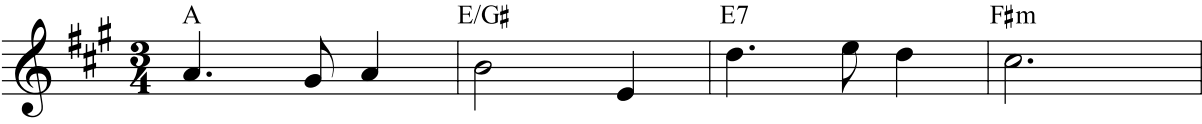
5

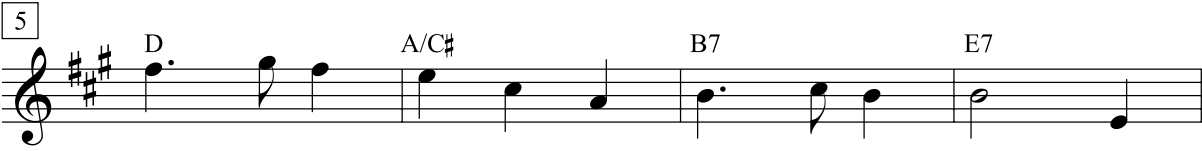
F Am Bb Dm Gm7 C7

8

Am Dm Gm7 C7 Bb F

Allegretto

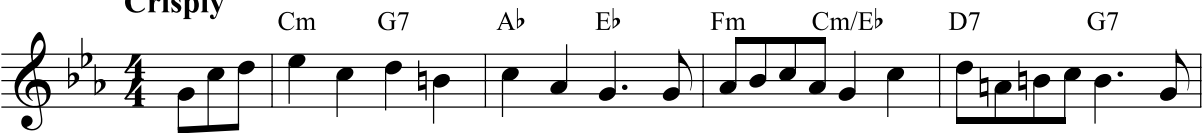
3 

5 

9 

13 

Crisply

4 

5 

Level 10

Ear Tests (Examples)

Playback (Melodic Improvisation)

Students may choose to play back a two-measure opening, complete the question (antecedent) phrase, and improvise an answer (consequent) phrase to create an eight-measure contrasting period. The examiner will identify the key and time signature, play the tonic chord *once*, and play the two-measure opening *three* times.

1



2



3



4



Sight Reading (Examples)

Playing (Lead Sheet Reading)

Students may choose to read a lead sheet (with a melody and root/quality chord symbols) and realize an accompaniment based on the chord symbols provided. Harmonic vocabulary will be aligned with the chords presented for study in Level 10 Theory in the *Theory Syllabus*. Students are expected to provide creative accompaniments appropriate to the style of the given melody

Easy Swing

1

5

9

13

Chord symbols: Eb, G7, Cm, Ab, Eb, F7, Bb7, Eb, Eb7, Ab, A \circ 7, Eb/Bb, Bb7, Eb, G7, Cm, F7, Bb7, Eb, G7, Cm, Eb7, Ab, Bb7, Eb

Brightly

2

Em7 A7/E D Bm

5

Em7 A7/E D F#7

9

Em A F#m B7

13

Em7 A7 D G/D D

Grazioso

3

Ab Eb/G Db/F Ab/Eb Eb

5

Fm Cm Bb7 Eb7

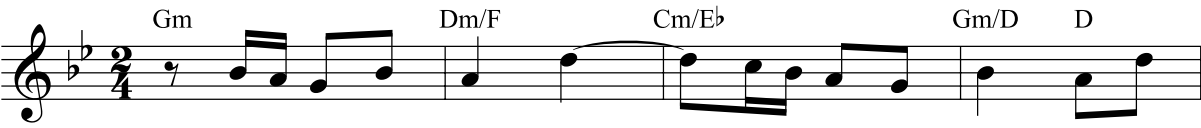
9

Ab C7 Db Ab

13

Eo7 Fm Bbm7 Eb7 Ab

Espressivo

4 

5 

9 

13 