

APPLIED PIANO SYLLABUS

General Requirements for all Applied Piano Students:

Students will schedule lessons with their individual instructor.

Students will need to acquire their own copies of the music they play. In addition, students will need to research the pieces and demonstrate knowledge of:

- Dates of composition, including other pieces written by the composer during the same time period; knowledge of pieces written by other composers during the same time period.
- A wide range of recordings of the pieces they play, accompanied by the ability to discuss differences of interpretation, articulation, tempo, and sound.

Keyboard Area Forums occur every second Friday of the month each semester at 2:00pm. All applied piano students should attend the piano forums and keyboard area recitals featuring pianists who have been selected by their studio teachers to perform. The piano forums afford each student valuable performance opportunities throughout the semester. In addition, discussion will be encouraged on the following topics:

- Performance practice and style.
- Technical solutions for common problems,
- Sound production,
- Repertoire and style difference between different renowned pianists.

Students will be encouraged to express their opinions on these matters and provide constructive criticism for their fellow performers.

Student performance Requirements:

- **Forums:** Must perform in a minimum of one forum per semester.
- **Student Recitals:** Performance in at least one public recital will be required of all 1311 and 2321 levels per year.
- Students must perform selections in a forum before a public recital and get approval from attending faculty.
- Appropriate performance dress is required for piano forums and recitals (**no sneakers, no flip-flops, no jeans, no t-shirts**)

Grading Policy:

- The final grade for each semester shall be a composite of the studio grade, awarded by the studio teacher, and the jury grade, awarded by the faculty present at semester juries.
- In cases where a student is giving a recital during the semester, the recital grade will replace jury grade.

MVK 1011

General: This course earns two credit hours with one fifty-minute lesson per week and is typically taken for the piano major who needs further training in technique and repertoire in order to qualify for admission to MVK 1311 (freshman level). Students apply for advancement to MVK 1311 upon decision of their studio instructor.

Objectives: Work is necessary on such topics as: developing a comfortable pianistic approach to the instrument, sound production, and developing an understanding of stylistic periods. Continuous work is done to develop the student's ability to work independently and to improve all aspects of piano playing and musicianship.

Technique:

- All major and minor scales, hands together, at least two octaves in eighth note rhythms, quarter note = 60.
- All major and minor arpeggios, at least two octaves hands together.
- Chord progressions (I – IV – V – I) keyboard style.
- Sight-reading and transposition of folk tunes and easy duets.
- Technical studies: Hanon, Czerny Opus 299, Little Pischna.

Repertoire: Students will need to cover repertoire ranging from the Baroque to the late 20th century. Students will study compositions from standard repertoire, such as:

- Bach Little Preludes and Fugues;
- Clementi and Kuhlau Sonatinas.
- Chopin, Schumann, and Debussy character pieces.
- Bartok Mikrokosmos, Vols. IV-VI.

Requirements: A jury exam is not required except for advancement. Each student will perform a final jury examination of ten minutes in length consisting of memorized works agreed upon with the instructor, representing at least two different style periods, and technical requirements. Students are expected to do a minimum of one hour of practice per day, although more is strongly encouraged.

MVK 1311

General: This course earns two credit hours with one fifty-minute lesson per week. This course is offered for students who are in their freshman level.

Advancement from MVK 1011 to MVK 1311 is not automatic. Admission to MVK 1311 takes place at a barrier jury examination heard by the piano faculty. At this time the faculty decides whether or not the student has arrived at the appropriate level for the degree. If the faculty deems that the student has not arrived at that level, advancement to MVK 1311 may be delayed or the student may be advised to pursue another major. After two successful semesters of freshman level, students must perform an advancement jury in order to advance to sophomore level.

Objectives: Students are expected to have achieved a higher level of technical and musical performance than MVK 1011. Emphasis will be given to the topics of interpretation, style, expanding repertoire, and the preparation of the student for recital performance. Students will be taught to develop practice habits that will produce a confident performance.

Technique:

- All major and minor scales, hands together, at least 2 octaves in eighth note rhythms, quarter note = 80.
- All major and minor arpeggios, at least two octaves hands together.
- Chord progressions (I – IV – V – I) keyboard style.
- Sight-reading and transposition of folk tunes and easy duets.
- Technical studies: Hanon, Czerny Opus 299, Little Pischna.

Repertoire: Students will need to cover repertoire ranging from the Baroque to the late 20th century, but more advanced pieces than MVK 1011.

- Bach Inventions, Preludes and Fugues from the Well-Tempered Clavier.
- Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven sonatas
- Chopin, Schumann, and Debussy character pieces; and Bartok Mikrokosmos, Vol. III.

Requirements: Each student will perform a final jury examination of ten minutes in length and consisting of memorized works agreed upon with the instructor representing two different style periods. Students are expected to do a minimum of two hours of practice per day, although more is strongly encouraged.

MVK 2321

General: This course earns two credit hours with one fifty-minute lesson per week. This course is offered for students who are in their Sophomore years.

Objectives: Although students who were admitted into MVK 2321 are expected to have achieved a high level of facility and musicianship, some work is necessary on such topics as: developing a more comfortable pianistic approach to the instrument, sound production, and the understanding of style. Students will be taught how to develop practice habits that will produce a confident performance.

Advancement from MVK 1311 to MVK 2321 is not automatic. Admission to MVK 2321 takes place at a barrier jury examination heard by the piano faculty. At this time the faculty decides whether or not the student has arrived at the appropriate level for the degree. If the faculty deems that the student has not arrived at that level, advancement to MVK 2321 may be delayed or the student may be advised to pursue another major.

Technique:

- All major and minor scales, hands together, 4 octaves in sixteenth note rhythms, quarter note = 112.
- All major and minor arpeggios, 4 octaves hands together. Chromatic scales, scales in parallel and contrary motion.
- Chord progressions (I – IV – V – I) keyboard style.
- Sight-reading and transposition of folk tunes and easy duets.
- Technical studies: Hanon, Czerny Opus 299, Little Pischna.

Repertoire: Pieces from the baroque period to the 21st century. In addition, the repertoire selected will include pieces that are presumed standardized in the international concert and competition scene in order to prepare the student for a performance career or for advanced study. Repertoire will include or of comparable difficulty:

- Bach Suites, Scarlatti Sonatas, Soler Sonatas
- Sonatas: Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, etc.
- Etudes: Chopin, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, etc.

Requirements: The final jury examinations are ten minutes in length and consist of memorized works agreed upon with the instructor representing two style periods. Students are expected to do a minimum of three hours of practice per day, although more is strongly encouraged.

MVK 1211

This course is a one credit hour course, with a 25-minute lesson a week. Priority will be given to students with extensive prior piano study, or those who have waived and/or completed all class piano requirements for their degree. No jury is required. Grades will be based on completing assigned work, progress, and participation in piano forums.

A proficiency exam (jury) will be required for those students who wish to qualify for advancement to sophomore level MVK 2221. The student will perform selections from the list below, or works of comparable level of difficulty.

Technique:

- All major scales (hands separately) 2 octaves, quarter note = 80
- White key minor scales
- All major arpeggios (hands separately) 2 octaves
- All major and minor cadences in all positions
- Harmonization of assigned folk songs, children's songs or popular songs using primary chords.
- Sight reading and transposition of simple melodies (Grade level 1 with easy left hand accompaniment; block chords or single note).
- Technical studies: Hanon 1-20, Herz scales studies

Repertoire: Continued study of solos and pieces using melodies with broken or arpeggiated style accompaniment (folk songs and popular songs).

- Agay – Easy Classics to Modern Book 1
- Bach – Easy selections from Anna Magdalena Notebook
- Clementi – Sonatinas
- Bartok – Mikrokosmos, Vols. I – II

MVK 2221

This course is a one credit hour course, with a 25-minute lesson a week for those who have completed all class piano requirements for their degree or for the student who has completed proficiency requirements for MVK 1211. No jury is required. Grades will be based on completing assigned work, progress, and participation in piano forums.

Technique:

- All major scales (hands together) 2 octaves, quarter note = 90
- All minor scales (natural, harmonic, and melodic forms) 2 octaves, quarter note = 90
- All major and minor arpeggios (hands together) 2 octaves
- All major and minor cadences in all positions
- Harmonization of assigned folk songs, children's songs or popular songs using I, IV, V7 chords beginning in root position.
- Sight reading and transposition of simple melodies (Grade level 1 with easy left hand accompaniment; block chords, arpeggiated and Alberti bass).
- Technical studies: Czerny Short studies, Hanon Book II, Herz scales studies, Little Pischna, Burgmuller Studies

Repertoire: Works of comparable level of difficulty may be substituted

- Bach – Preludes and Inventions
- Beethoven – Sonatinas, Bagatelles
- Schumann – Character pieces
- Kabalevsky – Sonatina in A minor
- Bartok – Mikrokosmos Book II

PIANO GRADING POLICY

Professor K. Wayne Bumpers

Room 8228

305-237-2392

kbumpers@mdc.edu

Each lesson will be assigned a grade in this manner to demonstrate your level of preparation each week.

A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, F = 0

2 Credit Class – 1 hour lesson (MVK 1011, MVK 1311, MVK 2321)

Assigned 3 or more compositions from different musical style periods (example: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionism, Contemporary), scales and technique. MVK 1311 and MVK 2321 students are expected to perform in at least one forum per semester and one recital per year. Excessive absences and poor preparation will result in a lower letter grade.

A = 2 memorized compositions and one readable

B = 2 memorized compositions

C = 1 memorized composition and 1 readable

D = 1 readable composition but non by memory

F = Poor preparation and unexcused absences

1 Credit Class – ½ hour lesson (MVK 1211, MVK 2221)

Assigned 2 or more compositions or method book assignments including scales and techniques. Excessive absences and poor preparation will result in a lower letter grade.

A = 2 memorized compositions and 1 readable or method book assignments completed weekly.

B = 1 memorized composition and 1 readable or method book assignments completed weekly.

C = 2 readable compositions or method book assignments completed without repeating them several times.

D = Poor work and preparation

F = Poor preparation and no shows