

Yamaha Grade Examination System

Piano Performance Grade

Grade 7

SYLLABUS

Valid from 2011

Current until further notice

Issued by authority of the

 **YAMAHA MUSIC FOUNDATION**

PREFACE

Yamaha Music Foundation is an organization established by the authority of Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for the purpose of promoting music education and music popularization. Its unique, systematic teaching method and teacher training programs are highly evaluated not only in Japan but also in other countries.

The Yamaha Grade Examination System has been developed to enable students and teachers to ensure their own progress and thereby obtain self-confidence in their own music studies.

The contents of Piano Performance Grade 10-6 examinations are designed to cover various kinds of elements of musical knowledge and indicate the direction that the students should follow.

The result of the examination will help the applicants to acquire the richer ability of music.

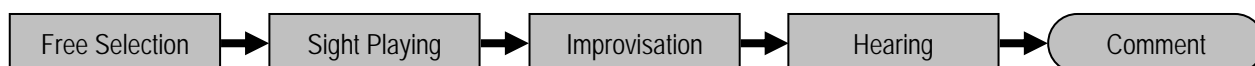
The YAMAHA GRADE EXAMINATION SYSTEM consists of thirteen grade levels, Grade 13 to Grade 1. The Examination evaluates the performing ability of the music lovers in general; the performing ability and the musical knowledge and techniques required for the instructors of the fundamentals stage; and also the performing competence of the professional musicians.

Both Piano and Electone Performance Grades are held from Grade 13 to Grade 3. Grade 13 to Grade 6 are for the musical lovers and the students of music schools; Grade 5 to Grade 3 are the professional grades for those who intend to be the instructors. Fundamentals Grades are also in the higher stage for instructor qualification which requires comprehensive musical knowledge and performance. Those who intend to be instructors of Yamaha Music Education System must obtain Grade 5 or higher in either Piano or Electone Performance Grade and the Fundamentals Grade as well.

Yamaha Grade Examination System

Piano Performance Grade 7

EXAMINATION PROCEDURE



I. FREE SELECTION

Candidates prepare four pieces from Yamaha Music Education System's textbooks, *Piano Method (Masterpieces) Grade 7 Vol.1-3**, *Piano Method (Original Works) Grade 7*** or any pieces that are the same difficulty level.

One candidate's own composition can be included instead.

Candidates will be asked to play two chosen by the examiners from the pieces prepared.

Note:

- Pieces should be chosen carefully from variety of composers, eras countries, styles, forms etc. in order to present a balanced program.
 - Etudes and exercise pieces are basically not suitable for Free Selection. However, etudes that have high musical value may be chosen. Candidates and the teachers should use their discretion in the choice.
 - A suite, sonatina etc. will be counted as one piece even if candidate plays one or all of the pieces (movements).
 - Candidates are recommended to bring scores of the pieces prepared. Examiners may use when giving comments.
 - Performing from memory is optional but advisable.
 - With regard to Repeat marks, follow the guidelines as below;
 - a) Sonata, Sonatina etc. --- without repeat
 - b) Pieces that the musical meaning can be expressed even if without repeat --- without repeat
 - c) Pieces that the repeat is needed to be musical --- with repeat
- Follow the instruction from the examiners if you are not sure whether you should omit repeat.

II. SIGHT PLAYING

Candidates play at sight a piano piece of around 12-16 bars in length.

Range of keys and times

Keys: Major or minor keys with up to three sharps or flats

Times: 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 6/8

Example

Moderato

The musical score is for a piece in B-flat major, 4/4 time, marked Moderato. It consists of three systems of two staves each. The first system is marked *mf* and features a melody in the treble clef with a slur over the first four bars and a bass line of eighth notes. The second system is marked *mp* and continues the melody with a slur over the first three bars, followed by a rest and a chord in the second bar. The third system is marked *mf* and continues the melody with a slur over the first three bars, followed by a rest and a chord in the second bar, ending with a double bar line.

Procedure

1. Candidates look through the score for approximately 30 seconds.
2. Candidates play the piece at sight after the examiner's cue.

III. IMPROVISATION

Candidates play a given melody of around eight bars in length together with an appropriate accompaniment, and then play with variation for the second time.

Range of keys, times and chords

Keys: Major or minor keys with up to three sharps or flats

Times: 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 6/8

Chords: I, IV, V, V₇, II and their inversions

Other chords and their inversions may be used.

Example

The example shows two systems of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first system features a melody in the treble clef with a simple accompaniment in the bass clef. The second system shows the same melody with a more complex accompaniment.

Procedure

1. Candidates play a given melody.

The examiners may give candidates advice if they didn't play it correctly. (Playing the melody by sight is not an evaluation point.)

2. Candidates play the melody together with an appropriate accompaniment.

The procedure example shows two systems of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first system is labeled 'Candidate' and shows a melody in the treble clef and a simple accompaniment in the bass clef. The second system shows the same melody with a more complex accompaniment.

3. Then candidates play with variation.

The image shows a musical score for piano performance, labeled 'Candidate'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The first system has four measures. The second system also has four measures and ends with a double bar line. The notation includes various note values, rests, and phrasing slurs.

Note:

- Candidate should use their discretion in the choice of bass line and accompaniment styles so that it can be suitable for the piece's atmosphere, tempo and so on.

IV. HEARING

Candidates play by ear a simple piano piece of around eight bars.

Range of keys and times

Keys: Major or minor keys with up to three sharps or flats

Times: 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 6/8

Example

The image shows a musical score example for piano performance, labeled 'Allegretto'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The first system has four measures. The second system also has four measures and ends with a double bar line. The notation includes various note values, rests, and phrasing slurs.

Procedure

1. The examiner tells candidates the key, and plays the whole piece.

Allegretto

Examiner

The score is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems of two staves each. The first system shows the examiner playing the first two bars of the piece. The second system shows the examiner playing the last two bars of the piece. The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand.

2. Then the examiner plays the piece 2 or 4 bars each. Candidates play by ear it after examiner's cue.

Allegretto

Candidate

Examiner

(cue)

(cue)

The score is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems of two staves each. The first system shows the candidate's part (top staff) and the examiner's part (bottom staff). The examiner plays the first two bars, then has a rest for two bars, then plays the last two bars. The candidate's part is silent for the first two bars, then plays the last two bars. The second system shows the candidate's part (top staff) and the examiner's part (bottom staff). The examiner plays the first two bars, then has a rest for two bars, then plays the last two bars. The candidate's part is silent for the first two bars, then plays the last two bars. The word "(cue)" is written above the examiner's part in both systems to indicate when the candidate should start playing.