

Yamaha Grade Examination System

# Piano Performance Grade

## Grade 8

# 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 8

### **EXAMINATION PROCEDURE**



### **I. FREE SELECTION**

Candidates prepare four pieces from Yamaha Music Education System's textbooks, *Piano Method (Masterpieces) Grade 8 Vol.1-3\**, *Piano Method (Original Works) Grade 8\*\** 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 eight bars in length.

### **Range of keys and times:**

Keys: C, G, F majors, A, D minors

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

### **Example**

Musical score for sight playing example in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of four bars each. The first system shows a melody in the right hand with a slur over the first four notes and a finger number '1' above the first note, and a bass line with chords. The second system continues the melody with a slur over the first two notes and a finger number '1' above the first note, and a bass line with chords and a repeat sign at the end.

### **Procedure**

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

## **III. ACCOMPANIMENT**

Candidates play suitable chords with both hands to a melody of around eight bars in length.

### **Range of keys, times and chord**

Keys: C, G, F majors, A, D minors

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

Chords: I, IV, V, V7 (root position), and II<sup>1</sup> (II<sub>6</sub>), I<sup>2</sup> (I<sub>4</sub>) Other chords and their inversions may be used.

### **Example**

Musical score for accompaniment example in G major, 4/4 time, marked Moderato. The score consists of two systems of four bars each. The first system shows a melody in the right hand with slurs and accents, and empty bass staves. The second system continues the melody with slurs and accents, and empty bass staves.

**Procedure**

1. Candidates listen to the melody the examiner plays, while looking through the score.
2. Candidates play the most suitable chords with both hands, to the melody the examiner plays.

**Moderato**

Examiner

Candidate

3. Then, candidates play the chords again in an appropriate accompaniment style.

Examiner

Candidate

**Note:**

- Unlike the Grades 10-9, bass notes will not be given. Consider not only the chords but also the bass line.
- Candidates should use their discretion in the choice of accompaniment style so that it can be suitable for the melody.

## **IV. HEARING**

Candidates play by ear melody/chords the examiner plays.

### **A. Melody Hearing**

Candidates play by ear a melody of around eight bars, played with the accompaniment.

#### **Range of keys and times**

Keys: C, G, F majors, A, D minors

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

#### **Example**

Moderato

The musical score for the example consists of two systems of piano music. The first system is marked 'Moderato' and features a melody in the treble clef and a chordal accompaniment in the bass clef. The melody is a sequence of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The accompaniment consists of a steady pattern of chords: C major, D major, E major, F major, G major, A major, B major, and C major. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment, ending with a double bar line.

#### **Procedure**

1. The examiner tells candidates the key, and plays the whole melody with the accompaniment..

Moderato

Examiner

The musical score for the procedure is identical to the example score. It shows the examiner playing the melody and accompaniment. The score is labeled 'Moderato' and 'Examiner'. It consists of two systems of piano music, with the first system starting with the tempo marking.

2. Then the examiner plays the melody and accompaniment two or four bars each. Candidates play by ear the melody to the accompaniment played by the examiner after examiner's cue.

**Moderato**

Candidate

Examiner

## B. Harmony Hearing

Candidates play by ear a chord cadence of around four-six bars.

### Range of keys, times and chords

Keys: C, G, F majors, A, D minors

Chords: I, IV, V, V7 (root position), and I<sup>2</sup>(I<sup>2</sup>)

### Example

The example shows a five-measure chord cadence in G major. The bass line consists of five quarter notes: G2, B2, D3, G2, and B2. The treble line consists of five chords: G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, and G4-B4-D5. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C).

### Procedure

1. The examiner tells candidates the key, and then plays all chords.
2. Then candidates play the chords after examiner's cue.

The procedure is illustrated with two staves. The top staff is labeled 'Candidate' and the bottom staff is labeled 'Examiner'. Both are in G major. The Examiner's part shows five chords: G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, and G4-B4-D5. The Candidate's part shows five rests, followed by the same five chords. A '(cue)' label is placed above the first chord in the Candidate's part, indicating when to begin playing.