

Yamaha Grade Examination System

# Piano Performance Grade

## Grade 7

# SYLLABUS

**Valid from 2014**

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.

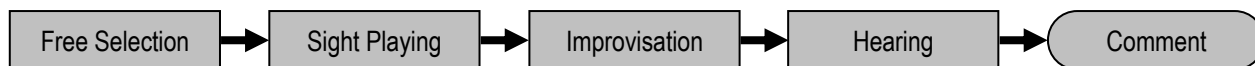
The YAMAHA GRADE EXAMINATION SYSTEM consists of thirteen grade levels, Grade 13 to Grade 1. The Examination evaluates the performing ability of the music lovers in general; the performing ability and the musical knowledge and techniques required for the instructors of the fundamentals stage; and also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

The musical score is for a piece in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major, marked Moderato. It consists of 12 bars. The first system (bars 1-4) features a melody in the right hand starting on G4, moving up stepwise to D5, and a bass line in the left hand of eighth notes starting on G2. The second system (bars 5-8) continues the melody with a slur over bars 5-6 and a half note in bar 7, while the bass line continues with eighth notes. The third system (bars 9-12) concludes with a slur over bars 9-10, a half note in bar 11, and a final chord in bar 12. Dynamics are marked *mf* at the beginning of the first system, *mp* at the beginning of the second system, and *mf* at the beginning of the third system.

### **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**

Musical notation for an example improvisation exercise in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is written in the treble clef and consists of two phrases of four bars each. The first phrase starts with a half note B-flat, followed by quarter notes C and D, then a half note E. The second phrase starts with a half note F, followed by quarter notes G and A, then a half note B-flat. The accompaniment is written in the bass clef and consists of two phrases of four bars each. The first phrase starts with a half note B-flat, followed by quarter notes C and D, then a half note E. The second phrase starts with a half note F, followed by quarter notes G and A, then a half note B-flat. The piece ends with a double bar line.

#### **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.

Musical notation for a procedure example improvisation exercise in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is written in the treble clef and consists of two phrases of four bars each. The first phrase starts with a half note B-flat, followed by quarter notes C and D, then a half note E. The second phrase starts with a half note F, followed by quarter notes G and A, then a half note B-flat. The accompaniment is written in the bass clef and consists of two phrases of four bars each. The first phrase starts with a half note B-flat, followed by quarter notes C and D, then a half note E. The second phrase starts with a half note F, followed by quarter notes G and A, then a half note B-flat. The piece ends with a double bar line.

3. Then candidates play with variation.

Candidate

The image shows a musical score for a piano piece in 3/4 time, marked 'Candidate'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has four measures. The second system has four measures. The treble clef staff contains a melody with eighth and quarter notes, while the bass clef staff provides accompaniment with quarter notes and rests. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat).

**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**

*Allegretto*

The image shows a musical score for a piano piece in 3/4 time, marked 'Allegretto'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has four measures. The second system has four measures. The treble clef staff contains a melody with eighth and quarter notes, while the bass clef staff provides accompaniment with quarter notes and rests. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat).

**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). The tempo is marked 'Allegretto'. The first system shows the examiner playing the first two measures in the treble clef and the last two in the bass clef. The second system continues the piece, with the first two measures in the treble clef and the last two in the bass clef, ending with a double bar line.

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). The tempo is marked 'Allegretto'. The first system shows the candidate's part (mostly rests) and the examiner's part playing the first two bars, then a cue, then the last two bars. The second system shows the candidate's part playing the first two bars, then a cue, then the last two bars.