

MEA Piano Studio

Piano Exam Prep Week

Yes! It's that time of the year... AGAIN!!!!

Preparatory A

What's Included:

- Important Information and Facts
- Listening List and Ratings Sheet
- Studio Schedule

About this Guide

For Teachers – Please Read

I use these materials in my own studio and am happy to share this information with other piano instructors. Please be aware that I often adapt things to fit the needs of my studio, so make sure that you have the official syllabus and rules because what I do may not work within your studio.

I use the Music Development Program, which is the USA version of the RCM program. The syllabus is online at <http://www.musicdevelopmentprogram.org>. This is available for free as a PDF download.

For Parents - Why I Do Piano Exams

The simple reason is that piano exams help students practice. I don't emphasize scores or push students to keep advancing to the next level. I do emphasize practicing and setting goals. Piano exams, like the many other events students participate in each year, help motivate a student to practice. When students have an external motivating factor for practicing, common practice problems tend to disappear.

How it Works

Students take the piano exam once each year in December. Students normally proceed to the next level, except for Preparatory students who retake this level at least twice.

For each piano exam, students will prepare the following:

- Repertoire – 3 piano pieces from various musical eras.
- Etudes – 1-2 pieces that focus on strengthening a particular skill.
- Technique – Consists of scales, chords, and other skills to help strengthen fingers and coordination.
- Musicianship – Skills to help strengthen rhythm, hearing, and reading.

Level 5 and higher students will take a theory exam each May.

Schedule for MEA Piano Studio Students

Spring

- October – Choose exam pieces.
- November – Unit 1
- December – Unit 2
- January – Unit 3
- February – Unit 4
- March – Unit 5
- April – Final Review
- May – Piano Exam, Student Recordings

Summer

- January – Choose exam pieces.
- February – Unit 1
- March – Unit 2
- April – Unit 3
- May – Unit 4
- June – Unit 5
- July – Final Review
- August – Piano Exam, Student Recordings

Winter

- May – Choose exam pieces.
- June – Unit 1
- July – Unit 2
- August – Unit 3
- September – Unit 4
- October – Unit 5
- November – Final Review
- December – Piano Exam, Student Recordings

RCM Piano Repertoire – Student Info Sheet

Directions:

1. Please fill out the following information. Ask your teacher if you need help.

Student Name: _____

Student Age: _____

Previous RCM Piano Exam Level: _____

Previous RCM Piano Exam Rating: _____

Current RCM Piano Exam Level: _____

2. Listen to the songs played by your teacher.
3. After each piece is performed, decide on a rating. You can give a rating of zero smiley faces (you hated the song!) to five smiley faces (you loved the song!).
4. You will need to make **final decision** after all of the pieces have been played.
5. If you can't decide ask your teacher to play the ones you liked best again.
6. If you are absent during Piano Exam Prep Week, review the piano exam information [here](#). Then follow this link <http://meapianostudio.com/exams> to choose your piano exam pieces. Go to the section for your **Current Level** and listen to the pieces. Then make your final decision!
7. Once you've made your final decision please make sure you tell your parents to order your new music. New music can be ordered from the following places:
 - www.sheetmusicplus.com
 - www.amazon.com
 - Your local Music and Arts Store
8. Students will need to purchase the Repertoire Book, the Etude Book, and Technique Book for their levels.

RCM Piano Exam Repertoire – Listening Sheet

Preparatory A – Choose 3 Pieces

Title	Composer	Rating
Marching	Kabalevsky	
The Lively Boy	Turk	
The Trumpeter and the Echo	Kabalevsky	
Let's Waltz	Pearce	
The Haunted Harp	Donkin	
The Haunted Mouse	Faber	
Curious Cat	Richert	
Boots	Adair	
The Teeter-totter	Reubart	
Jazz Blast	Faber	
Shadows	Alexander	
March for a Reluctant Soldier	Duke	
Rainbow Fish	Rollin	
Rowing Round	Milligan	
Spider's Web	Niamath	
Mouse in the Grandfather Clock	Chatman	
A Skating Waltz	Berlin	
Sleigh Bells	Donkin	
Thunderstorm	Rahbee	
Thunderstorm	Milne	

Final Choice #1: _____

Final Choice #2: _____

Final Choice #3: _____

MEA Piano Studio Piano Exam Reminders

RCM Exams – Things to Remember

1. All students will practice songs for the piano exam. Those that are prepared adequately by the registration deadline can participate.
2. Students in the Preparatory Levels will repeat the same level at least twice.
3. Students in Level 5 or higher are required to take the theory exam.
4. Before emailing me any questions, please go to www.meapianostudio.info if you would like to learn more about the Piano Exams or any other studio event.
5. Please go to <http://meapianostudio.com> to listen to samples of piano exam pieces.
 - Hover the mouse over Studio Activities.
 - Hover over Winter Events.
 - Click on Vienna Piano Exam.
6. A copy of the current Piano Exam Syllabus is available at the studio and is also online at the studio website.
7. ABSOLUTELY NO PHOTOCOPIES ARE ALLOWED. Please make sure to bring the correct permission form to the piano exam.
8. See a mistake? Send me an email so I can fix it.