

Musicianship Guidelines

General Guidelines

Judges will score you in the following areas for a total of ten musicianship points. The judge may ask you questions not listed in these guidelines, but those questions will not count toward your score.

1. Titles and composers

Know the titles and composers of your pieces.

2. Scales and chord progressions

- a. Prepare scales and chord progressions in the keys of your pieces, including the Contemporary piece if applicable.
- b. When playing scales and chords in a minor key, use the harmonic form.

3. Musical markings

Identify and define dynamic, articulation, style, tempo, and other expression marks in your pieces according to the specific requirements listed below.

4. Form

Point out the larger sections of a piece. You do not need to name the form; for example, rather than identify ABA, you may explain that the outer sections are alike and the middle one is different.

Specific Requirements According to Grade Level

Grades K-1

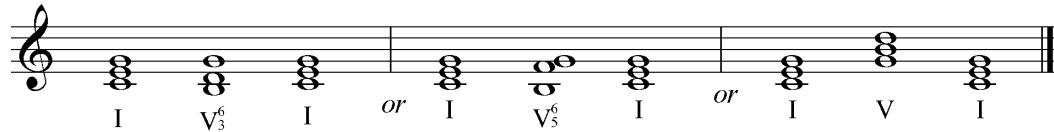
1. Know the titles and composers of your pieces.
2. You do not need to play scales and chord progressions in grade K-1, but be able to do the following:
 - a. Play and name any white key, or identify as the judge plays it.
 - b. Know high and low on the piano.
 - c. Know finger numbers.
3. Identify expression marks in your pieces (for example, *f*, *p*, slur, staccato).
4. You do not need to identify the form of your pieces at this grade level.

Grades 2-3

1. Know the titles and composers of your pieces.
2. For tonal pieces, including your Contemporary piece if it is tonal, play a 5-finger pattern or warm-up of your teacher's choice, hands alone. For contemporary pieces, explain and/or demonstrate a contemporary feature of the piece (for example, a modal scale, a whole tone scale, or dissonance).
3. Identify expression marks in your pieces (for example, *f*, *p*, slurs, staccato marks, *crescendo*, *ritardando*).
4. Identify similar patterns of melody and rhythm in your pieces.

Grades 4-5

1. Know the titles and composers of your pieces.
2. For a tonal piece, including your Contemporary piece if it is tonal, play a **one octave** scale, hands together, in the key of your piece. Also play any of these three chord progressions in the key of your piece, hands together:

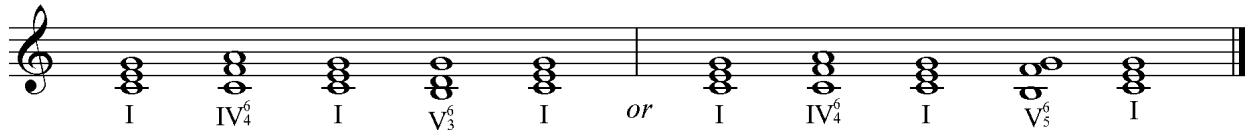


For your contemporary piece, do the same as the previous grade level.

3. Identify expression marks in your pieces (for example, *f*, *p*, accent, tenuto, *animato*) including the tempo markings of your pieces (for example, Allegro, Moderato).
4. Point out the larger sections of your pieces as well as similar patterns of melody and rhythm.

Grades 6-7

1. Know the titles and composers of your pieces. Know the time periods, style periods and nationalities of the composers.
2. For a tonal piece, including your Contemporary piece if it is tonal, play a **two octave** scale, hands together. Also play either of these two chord progressions in the key of your piece, hands together:

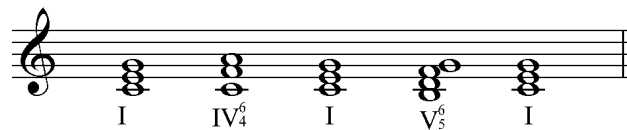


For your Contemporary piece, do the same as the previous grade level.

3. Same as previous grade level.
4. Explain the forms of your pieces.

Grades 8-9

1. Same as previous grade level.
2. For tonal pieces, including your Contemporary piece if it is tonal, play a **three octave** scale, hands together. Also play this chord progression in the key of your piece, hands together:



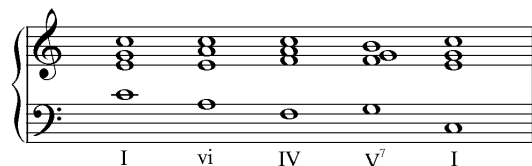
Note that the **V** chord uses four notes.

For your Contemporary piece, do the same as the previous grade levels.

3. Same as previous grade level.
4. Same as previous grade level.

Grades 10-12

1. Same as previous grade level.
2. For tonal pieces, including your Contemporary piece if it is tonal, play a **four octave** scale, hands together. Also play this chord progression in the key of your piece:



For your Contemporary piece, do the same as the previous grade levels.

3. Same as previous grade level.
4. Same as previous grade level.