



**conservatory**  
C A N A D A™

## Pre-Grade One Piano Examination

**Length of Examination:** 15 minutes

**Examination Fee:** \$75 (includes mini-lesson)

The Pre-Grade One Piano Exam is designed for young students who have some experience in lessons, yet have not quite reached the Grade One level and want exposure to the examination process in an interactive, enjoyable and safe environment. Students perform three pieces and are tested on Technique, Sight Reading and Ear Training in only a few short minutes, with the balance of the time spent having a mini-lesson with the Examiner. The total experience lasts 15 minutes at a cost of \$75. Although a mark and written assessment are given for reference, the emphasis is on celebrating the student's progress and work completed. This is reinforced through the interaction with the Examiner during the mini-lesson portion of the exam. The marking scale employed is more similar to what is used at music festivals. Up to two parents plus the teacher may be present in the exam room for the entire session, one of which may be designated to assist gently in the event that the student needs some support.

Requirements		Total Marks
<b>Three Pieces</b>	Longer Piece	<b>10</b>
	Longer Piece	<b>10</b>
	Shorter Piece	<b>10</b>
<b>Technical Tests</b>	Scales and Triads	<b>10</b>
<b>Sight Reading</b>	Clapping /3, Note Identification /2	<b>5</b>
<b>Ear Tests</b>	Clap Back /2, Major / Minor Triads /3	<b>5</b>
<b>Total Possible Marks</b>		<b>50*</b>

\*Mark will be multiplied by two to receive a score out of 100.

### PIECES

Students are required to play three pieces of their choice at a level deemed by the teacher to be slightly easier than Grade One; memorization is optional. In order to provide a worthwhile evaluation experience, careful consideration should be given that the music chosen contains sufficient musical integrity to allow

## **PIECES continued**

for comments to be shared by the examiner. Music from the “performance” or “solos” books from widely used beginner methods are appropriate, using those from Levels 2 or 3 (not Primer or Level 1). A sample list of books follows as a guide, however music may be chosen from other sources, including Lesson books, *without* prior approval from Conservatory Canada. At least two of the pieces should be of a longer length - two standard pages or at least 16 measures.

### **Sample book list:**

- Conservatory Canada Pre-Grade 1 Repertoire book
- Music for Young Children, Sunbeams 3
- Piano Adventures by Faber and Faber (Performance books, Level 2A or 2B)
- Hal Leonard Piano (Solos books, Level 2 or 3)
- Alfred’s Basic Piano Library or Premier Piano Course (Performance books, Level 2A or 2B)
- Bastien Piano Basics (Performance books, Level 2 or 3)
- The Music Tree (Level 2 or 3)
- Suzuki Piano (Volume 1)
- Pianokids (Level 2B or 3)

## **TECHNIQUE**

All scales and chords should be played from memory using logical fingering and steady pulse. Metronome speeds provided should be considered minimum speeds. Scales should be played ascending and descending without repeating the upper tonic note. Triads should be played ascending and descending, in root position and inversions. Triads may be prepared and played either solid, broken or any combination thereof, **at the student’s choice** (the examiner will not specify).

Technique	Keys	Hands	Octaves	♩ =	Articulation / Values
<b>Scales</b>					
Major	C, G	separate	1	60	Legato, eighth notes
Harmonic Minor	a	separate	1	60	Legato, eighth notes
Contrary Motion	C	together	1	60	Legato, eighth notes
<b>Triads</b>					
Major	C, G	separate	1	-	Any steady tempo
Minor	a	separate	1	-	Any steady tempo

## **SIGHT READING**

- A. Students will be required to **clap or tap** the rhythm of a simple 4 bar melody which may include whole, half and quarter notes and will be in 4/4 time. There will be no rests.

