



Music Starts Here



conservatory
CANADA™

Contemporary Idioms Piano Webinar

An overview of CI piano syllabus



conservatory
C A N A D A™

Flexible

NEW EXAM OPTIONS

Flex eExams and Flex Theory allow students to schedule exams when they are ready

Flex eExams use technology to connect examiners with students remotely



**Flex Theory
exams
available**



**Free Approvals
to choose your own
repertoire**



**New Contemporary Idioms
Piano syllabus
now available**



**New Pre-Grade One
Piano exam
now available**

For more information, contact:

1-800-461-5367 • mail@conservatorycanada.ca • www.conservatorycanada.ca



conservatory
C A N A D A™

More For Your Music

Trends in Modern Studio Teaching

- More teachers are teaching students in **groups**
- **Recreational** Music Making is becoming more popular
- Students are looking to learn music that is more **relevant** to their social experience
- More Teachers and Students are engaging **technology** in learning
- Schedules and **convenience** are becoming top priorities
- Emphasis now on the “**experience**” rather than “learning”
- Much **less practice time** for students
- Students learn in short **bursts of curiosity**

What Makes Us Different?

- **More time with the Examiner: Grade 1 - 20 minutes; Grade 8 - 40 minutes**
- **Mini lessons with the Examiner: 15 minutes at the end of the exam**
- **Viva Voce or Background questions**
- **Keyboard Harmony and other important “skills”**
- **Supplementary piece**
- **Partial exams from Grade / Level 7**
- **Marking system using decimal gradations to 0.1**



More For Your Music

Two Exam Streams

Classical Stream: ABC; Studies; Supplementary piece. Technique; Sight Reading; Ear Training; Keyboard Skills (Grades 5 and up); Viva Voce.

Contemporary Idioms Stream: 4 Pieces (Own choice for style); Contemporary Technique; Sight Reading; Ear Training; Improvisation (Using APP Etudes and lead sheets).

Newer Exam Features

- **Contemporary Idioms Syllabus (Piano, Voice, Guitar)**
- **Flex exams or Seasonal exams**
- **eExams represent one quarter of our exams**
- **Flex Theory exams**
- **Partial Theory exams (Theory 1 - 3)**
- **Free irregular list approvals (all instruments)**
- **Pre-Grade One Piano Exam Experience**

Newest Options

- **New Classical Piano Syllabus**
- **New Piano Pedagogy Research Exam (written followed by oral component)**
- **Forthcoming revisions to**
 - **Classical Vocal**
 - **Contemporary Idioms Vocal**
 - **Guitar and other instrumental (more distant)**

Contemporary Idioms Piano Syllabus

- **Four pieces**, regardless of style (one can be from Classical lists)
- New technical requirements are more approachable (**less jazz** more pop)
- Sight Reading and Aurals follow Classical models
- Improv exercises and tests based on **American Popular Piano Etudes**
- Improvisation includes lead sheet reading OR **“options”** at higher levels
- APP **backing tracks** are available on our website (for improv tests)
- No marks for using backing tracks with pieces, but still encouraged
- Background Info includes **Applied Skills** to reinforce technique

Contemporary Idioms Breakdown of Marks

Requirements		Total Marks
Repertoire: 4 pieces of varying styles	Piece #1	12
	Piece #2	12
	Piece #3	12
	Piece #4	12
Memory:	2 marks max will be awarded for 2 pieces memorized	2
Technique:	Scales, Triads/Chords	14
Sight Reading:	Rhythm Pattern /3, Piano Passage /7	10
Aural Tests:	Clap Back /4, Major/Minor Triads /3, Chord Tones /3	10
Improvisation:	Etude /5, Lead Sheet /5	10
Background Information and Applied Skills:		6
Total Possible Marks		100

Repertoire

- Four pieces; varying “style”; at least 2 different composers
- One piece may be Classical in style (regardless of list)
- Updated Contemporary List available from our website
- All American Popular Piano Repertoire selections have been re-leveled
- Edit to condense the length of longer pop stylings
- Students can edit notation and rhythm to make level appropriate and create more realistic arrangements
- Memorize any two pieces, one mark each
- Backing tracks may still be used, but no marks awarded

Level 1 Technique

Scales/Modes	Keys	Hands	Range	J=	Performance
Scales/Modes					
Ionian/Major	C, G	Separate	2 octaves	69	Swing or Straight in 8ths
Aeolian/ Natural Minor	a, e	Separate	2 octaves	69	Swing or Straight in 8ths
Contrary Motion	C	Together	2 octaves	69	Swing or Straight in 8ths
Major Pentatonic	C	Separate	2 octaves	69	Swing or Straight in 8ths
Minor Pentatonic	a	Separate	2 octaves	69	Swing or Straight in 8ths
Blues	c, a	Separate	2 octaves	69	Swing or Straight in 8ths
Triads					
Solid	C, G, a, e	Separate	1 octave	100	Quarter notes, separated by a quarter rest
Broken	C, G, a, e	Separate	1 octave	60	Triplet 8th notes

Underlying Connections

Major scale *to* Major Pentatonic *to*

Minor Pentatonic *to* Blues Scale

Level 4 Technique

Scales/Modes	Keys	Hands	Range	J=	Performance
Scales/Modes					
Ionian/Major	A, E ♭	Together	2 octaves	92	Swing or Straight in 8ths
Dorian	b, f	Together	2 octaves	92	Swing or Straight in 8ths
Mixolydian	E, B ♭	Together	2 octaves	92	Swing or Straight in 8ths
Aeolian/Natural Minor	f♯, c	Together	2 octaves	92	Swing or Straight in 8ths
Harmonic Minor	f♯, c	Together	2 octaves	92	Swing or Straight in 8ths
Blues	e ♭	Together	2 octaves	92	Swing or Straight in 8ths
Triads					
Solid	A, E ♭, f♯, c	Together	1 octave	138	Quarter notes, separated by a quarter rest
Broken	A, E ♭, f♯, c	Together	1 octave	76	Triplet 8th notes
Arpeggios					
Major/Minor	A, E ♭, f♯, c	Separate	2 octaves	80	Legato, in even 8th notes

Background Information and Applied Skills

Level 4

- **Title; Composer / Arranger; Key**
- **Signs and Markings**
- **Chord creation: Play any major or minor triad starting on any key**
Convert any triad into a dominant 7th or minor 7th chord
- **Change a: F# minor pentatonic scale to an F# blues scale.**
C minor pentatonic scale to a C blues scale.
- **Comment on the style of the piece**

Sight Reading

- Clapping using contemporary rhythms
- Piano passage similar to classical stream

Ear Training

- Clap back or play back using contemporary rhythms
- Chord recognition (scales recognition in early levels)
- Identifying chord tones (early levels only)
- Interval identification (intermediate and senior levels)

New Improvisation Requirement

American Popular Piano Etudes

- **Students choose any three Etudes to rehearse with the backing tracks (available for download from our website).**
- **The Examiner chooses one of the three Etudes to perform on the exam from the student's list.**
- **The student is given music from one of the modules to use as a guide.**
- **The student improvises freely, with the backing track, hands together.**

Lead Sheet Reading Level 4



Musical staff 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature, key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). Chord symbols above the staff are Eb, Bb7, Fmin7, Bb7, and Eb. The melody consists of quarter notes in the first two measures, followed by eighth notes in the third and fourth measures, and a whole note in the fifth measure.



Musical staff 2: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature, key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). Chord symbols above the staff are Eb, Bb7, Fmin7, Bb7, and Eb. The melody is identical to staff 1, ending with a double bar line.



conservatory
CANADA™

More For Your Music

Lead Sheet Reading Level 5 and up

12 Bar Blues

The image shows a 12-bar blues lead sheet in G major, consisting of three staves of music. Each staff contains four measures of music, with slanted lines representing notes. The first staff is labeled C7, the second staff is labeled F7 and C7, and the third staff is labeled G7, F7, and C7.

Lead Sheet Reading Level 5 and up

Own Composition

- **Candidate will create an original composition in a key and time signature of their choice**
- **Maximum time allowed is 1 or 2 minutes (level depending)**
- **Candidate must provide a chord chart, lead sheet or score completely written out in standard notation for the Examiner.**

Conservatory Canada Teacher's Facebook page



Contact Information

Derek Oger, Executive Director:

derek@conservatorycanada.ca

1 (807) 355-3423

Kelly Matthews, Registrar:

kelly@conservatorycanada.ca

1 (800) 461-5367

[**www.conservatorycanada.ca**](http://www.conservatorycanada.ca)



More For Your Music



conservatory
CANADA™

Music Starts Here