

## KEYBOARD SKILLS IV

MUSC 2502-01, 02

University of West Georgia, Spring 2020

Dr. Carol Gingerich

email: [cginger@westga.edu](mailto:cginger@westga.edu) (generally read Mon-Wed)

Humanities Room 335 678-839-6273

Office Hours as Posted (please knock loudly)

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### A. Prerequisites

Music Theory II and passing of Keyboard Skills III with a grade appropriate to your major (Music Education majors must have earned the grade of C in KS III).

### B. General Objectives

1. To continue the ideas presented in Keyboard Skills III. This is the culmination and highest level of the Keyboard Skills I-IV course sequence and so more practicing will be needed in order to conquer the more advanced challenges found in KS IV. This is a rigorous, intellectually challenging course, demanding the highest level of excellence.
2. To acquire the piano skills and music theory knowledge needed for the UWG Piano Proficiency module tests, and that are also included in outside tests such as GACE and Graduate School Entrance Exams. Piano Proficiency prepares students to function in the real world as professional musicians, and is part of the best, accredited professional music degree programs (NASM). Additionally, it trains the mind for mental acuity and intellectual self-discipline, and provides cognitive musical training and habits that influence all forms of music making.
3. To increase student's critical listening and thinking skills through the use of creative, and collaborative group work.
4. To prepare students for post- graduation professional uses of the piano such as Auditions for Employment, and accompanying in vocal and instrumental settings, through the use of non-graded, simulated exercises.
5. To assist students with acquiring standards appropriate for their success as adult learners and future professional musicians in the Information Age, such as the ability to organize and retrieve information, and habits of punctuality and diligent effort. **Being a professional musician is both challenging and fun, and so this course is both challenging and fun!**
6. To assist students with creating personalized methods of dealing with the stresses and demands of 21<sup>st</sup> century life, by experiencing an informal introduction to mindfulness techniques.

### C. Specific Musical Objectives REQUIRED

#### Module G

Harmonic Minor Scales HS 2 octaves: c,# f#, b

Minor Triad Arpeggios HS 2 octaves: c,# f#, b

Modulate to the Relative Minor Starting in G, D, F, Bb: Textbook p. 228

Harmonize and Transpose Complex Melodies and Accompaniments: Independent Preparation

Choral Score: perform 2 adjacent parts simultaneously: Independent Preparation

Sight Read Piano Piece HT

#### Module H

Modulate to the Subdominant starting in G, D, F, Bb: Textbook p. 195

Improvise an Accompaniment Following a Given Pattern: Independent Preparation

Perform Piano Solo from Memory with Expression

Choral Score: perform 2 non-adjacent parts simultaneously: Independent Preparation

Star Spangled Banner

Sight Read Piano Piece HT

### D. Required Materials

1. Lancaster and Renfrow. Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book 2, second edition. **\*note: this is a REQUIRED material and students who attend class without the textbook will lose 0.5% per class.** (recommended: borrow from someone in the hall.) **Sharing the textbook in class is not permitted as this is distracting and physically uncomfortable.**

2. pencil brought to ALL classes!

3. Metronome- physical or APP- *brought to class when indicated*

4. practice time- Students earning an A or B in previous semesters can expect to need to **double or triple their practice time** in order to conquer the more advanced challenges of KS IV. Total of 3-4 hours per week as needed.

OPTIMAL: **2/15 minute focused and concentrated sessions each day for 6 days/week** (this is worth more than 45 minutes/day unfocused)

-30 minutes total everyday is better than 3 hours on weekend

-grab 10 minutes here or there-it's fun to practice.

### E. Evaluation (subject to change)

I. Small Playing Test - 1 test worth 2%; "try it out" preparation for Module G

II. Piano Proficiency Modules G and H

#### a) General Requirements

-each module must be passed with a grade of C or above in order to have passed Piano Proficiency and in order to pass KS IV

-each SECTION of each module (eg. Technique, Harmonization, Transposition, Sight Reading, etc) must be passed with a C or above in order to have passed the Proficiency module and in order to pass KS IV.

b) Specific Requirements

-specific requirements are given on page 2 and the textbook page numbers are given two weeks prior to the test date.

III. Recital –2%

- to be held in Cashen Hall
- focus on interpretation
- invite friends and family, optional
- perform Piano Proficiency memorized solo repertoire as a “try out”

IV. Written Music Theory Test – 2%

-memorization of step-by-step methods for choosing LH chords; practicing RH and LH; determination of secondary dominant pitches.

V. Non Graded Experiences

-in order to prepare for “real life” experiences students will perform in class on their principal applied instrument or voice, in simulated situations related to their specific degree program.

VI. Class Attendance – attendance is taken on a daily basis and is the best assurance of succeeding in this course

-each class is worth 0.5% and each unexcused absence results in a 0.5% reduction of the 14% allocated for attendance. **Attending class without the textbook is equivalent to being absent and will count towards the attendance policy.** Class begins at the official time indicated by the university. *Students arriving after the door has been closed may not enter the room and should not knock and thus disturb the class,* and will be considered absent.

\_\_\_\_\_ O P T I O N A L \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Second Chance Test**

-earn grade of 60-69% AND pass at least 3 of the sections on Module G and/or H, earn chance to perform the test a second time during Final Exam week

**2. Bonus Points** – total 2%

-are eligible if complete and pass all components of the course

Transposed Harmonization Score

-hard copy submitted -may be handwritten or use notational software (Finale, Sibelius, etc., see academic policies)

-ONE assigned excerpt from Module G

-specific 4-8 bars as indicated

### 3. Test Out Early

#### a) Introductory Statement

“After enrolling in the course, students may test out early, according to the individual instructor’s policies.” This option is intended primarily for students who:

- i) have had more than 3 years of pre-college private piano study or
- ii) have earned the grade of A or B in previous Keyboard Skills courses or
- iii) are currently doing excellent work in the course or
- iv) were previously enrolled in this course AND passed either Module G or Module H
- v) **AND are able to devote ample time to practicing independently, without assistance from the instructor.”**

#### b) Policy

-after successful completion of both modules students will receive an email indicating that they have completed Piano Proficiency for this semester and have passed KS IV and that they will no longer need to attend class for the remainder of the semester. Their final grade will be calculated using the grades earned on each module and a mathematically prorated amount for the remaining 20% of the course. The prorated amount will utilize the grades they earned up until the date they tested out of the course. Students must continue **to attend all classes** until they have received this email. Students are asked to complete the online evaluation form, which usually becomes available in late April.

#### c) Procedure

-by the due date, a student must send a commitment email to Dr. Gingerich indicating their intention to complete this process

## F. Academic Policies

### Attendance Requirements

Class attendance is important in order to create musical excellence in the acquisition of skill development and knowledge of the subject matter, and is a form of the daily practice and focus exhibited by professional musicians. However, occasionally important life matters prevent students from attending class, and so students are allowed three absences if needed. This attendance policy is designed to support and reward professional standards.

A student is allowed three absences. Upon the fourth and fifth absence, the student’s final grade will be lowered by one letter grade. Upon the sixth and seventh absence their final grade will be lowered two letter grades. Upon the eighth and ninth absence, their final grade will be lowered three letter grades. ***It is the student’s responsibility to keep count of their number of absences.***

UWG provides excellent resources to students, and exceptions to the above attendance policy occur if Dr. Gingerich receives an ***email*** notification **stating that the student should be excused**, from a UWG Professional designated and trained to provide ongoing assistance in your area of need:

- a) Physical Health: Health Services Patient Advocate (Jill Hendricks, Corey Hindman, Jamie Gaddy)
- b) Emotional Health: UWG Cares: [www.westga.edu/UWGCares](http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares)
- c) Academic:(time management, learning disabilities): Center for Academic Success (UCC)
- d) Miscellaneous: Dr. Hibbard (non-medical, funerals, car problems, etc)
- e) Miscellaneous: Dean of Students Office: [www.westga.edu/vpsa](http://www.westga.edu/vpsa)
- f) UWG music instructor concerning date and time of departure for an ensemble tour or conference.

**It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the information concerning the Exception is sent to Dr. Gingerich WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE END OF THE ABSENCE and is complete.** (highly recommended: ask them to cc the student). **It is the student's responsibility to make up any missed work, by contacting their "piano buddy."**

**Please note: communication regarding absences is via email only. Reminder: *Dr. Gingerich does not grant Excused Absences*; she simply follows the recommendations of a qualified UWG professional. Dr. Gingerich is well qualified to assist with musical and pianistic problems. But for reasons of confidentiality and in order to obtain the best professional advice, assistance for situations which are non- musical or non- pianistic must be provided by one of the UWG professional listed above.**

Excused Absence Procedure:

- a) -an email sent from a UWG email address and copied to the student's UWG email address
- statement "Please excuse \_\_\_\_\_ (your name) \_\_\_\_\_ (your student ID number) on \_\_\_\_\_ (date(s))"
- must include UWG professional's name and UWG position
- b) Questions about the Procedure:
  - i) **first thoroughly read the syllabus**
  - ii) sent VIA EMAIL to Dr. Gingerich AND including a pasted copy of the exact section from the syllabus to which the question pertains

Disruptive Behavior

Students will be dismissed from any class meeting at which they exhibit behavior that disrupts the learning environment of others. Such behavior includes – but is not limited to – speaking disrespectfully to the instructor and/or to other students, the use of personal audio or video devices, tapping, drumming, distracting body movements, and creating noise while the instructor is speaking. Each dismissal of this kind will count as an absence and will be applied toward the attendance requirements policy. **The instructor has the right to teach and ALL students have the right to learn!**

Smartphones, Tablets, Etc may be utilized during class **ONLY WHEN INDICATED BY THE INSTRUCTOR** *Unauthorized use is a form of disruptive behavior.*

Using Sibelius or any other technological device or person other than yourself to solve intellectual challenges does NOT demonstrate piano proficiency. Using Sibelius to determine

transposed pitches or to create performances in the original key, or for any other purpose that would substitute for your own capabilities, does not demonstrate the ability to use music theory to solve intellectual problems, and impedes the development of your cognitive growth in becoming an excellently educated musician. **Using substitutes for your own work, is a form of academic dishonesty and is in violation of the UWG Student Handbook and the UWG student Honor Code.** While it is important to be well educated concerning musical technology, it is equally important to be educated as to its appropriate uses.

Makeup Policy –tests, presentations can be rescheduled only if Dr. Gingerich receives an email stating that the student is excused, from any of the UWG Professionals listed above.

Due Dates –all assignments and tests are due at the beginning of the assigned class. Late assignments or test attendance earn the grade of zero.

Email –official communication is through “my.westga.edu” accounts only

Grade Queries If you have questions about your grade during the semester, please describe your specific question and send it **via email**. It is easy to keep track of your grade from class to class since the course percentages are also points, and mathematically you simply need to add your total points. However, questions about your grade totals and percentages *are welcome and must be sent via email*.

Credit – Work utilized in other courses is not permissible.

Disclaimer- *university professors do not function in a parental role and university students are considered to be adults.* However, *if you wish*, I can guide you towards appropriate UWG professionals who can assist you with non- musical problems. But, I am an expert in piano/musical topics and am happy to assist you with these.

Contract –by remaining a registered student in this course, the student agrees to the obligations set forth in this syllabus for the satisfactory completion of this course. Detailed applications of and adjustments to the syllabus are explained, described and reviewed during class meetings. Before each module exam students will be asked to verbally confirm that they have read and understood the syllabus. Additional information: <http://tinyurl.com/UWGSyllabusPolicies>

### **G. Grading**

Piano Proficiency Module G (Midterm Exam)	40%
Piano Proficiency Module H (Final Exam)	40%
Small Playing Test	2%
Written Music Theory Test	2%
Recital	2%
Attendance	14%
Bonus Points	2%

90-100A      80-90B      70-80C      60-70D      Below 60F

**\*Please note; Final Grades are posted on Banweb in accordance with UWG policies and are NOT available early.**

**H. Syllabus** (subject to change)

Week 1: Jan 6/8	Syllabus Presentation Necessary Fundamentals Review Recital Repertoire Module G
Week 2: Jan 13/15	<b>Test -Out Early Email Commitment Due Jan 13 7:00 am</b>
Week 3: Jan 22	
Week 4: Jan 27/29	<b>Jan 27: no class-Test Out Early Tests only</b>
Week 5: Feb 3/5	
Week 6: Feb 10/12	<b>Small Playing Test</b>
Week 7: Feb 17/19	<b>Written Music Theory Test</b>
Week 8: Feb 24/26	<b>Feb 24: Bonus Points- Staff Paper Transposition due</b>
Week 9: Mar 2/4	<b>Module G: Midterm Mar 4</b>
Week 10: Mar 9/11	<b>Module G: Midterm Mar 9, 11</b>
Week 11: Mar 23/25	Module H
Week 12: Mar 30/Apr 1	
Week 13: Apr 6/8	<b>Apr 8: Recital Cashen Hall (TBD)</b>
Week 14: Apr 13/15	
Week 15: Apr 20/22/27	<b>Module H: Final Exam</b>
Exam Week:	Second Attempt Module Tests: <b>Fri May 1 8-10 am</b>