

PIANO IMPROVISATION RUBRIC

Piano Improvisation Objectives

The piano improviser will be able to:

1. Demonstrate melodic line and harmonization through keyboard improvisation
2. Demonstrate the ability to tell a story where elements of the story can be expressed in keyboard improvisation
3. Demonstrate the ability to modulate within a major key structure
4. Demonstrate various rhythmic structures in keyboard improvisation
5. Demonstrate the ability to create a keyboard improvisation on a given rhythmic pattern
6. Demonstrate the ability to create keyboard improvisations that inspire movement

PIANO IMPROVISATION RUBRIC	Unacceptable	Progressing	Satisfactory	Outstanding
Single melodic line	Phrasing and form not evident. No attention to dynamics.	Antecedent and consequent phrasing is present without dynamics.	Demonstrates antecedent and consequent phrases incorporating dynamics.	Demonstrates balanced antecedent and consequent phrases with appropriate dynamics and a musical melody.
Harmonization	Harmonizes with block chords but without a steady tempo, dynamics or phrasing.	Harmonizes a melody with block chords in the LH without attention to dynamics.	Harmonizes a melody at a consistent tempo with block chords using dynamics, phrasing, and starting & stopping cues.	Harmonizes a melody with complementary structures in the LH, including dynamics, articulation, consistent tempo, and starting & stopping cues.
Harmonize a major scale	Plays scale with harmonies in root position without voice leading, dynamics or phrasing.	Plays haltingly but with dynamics and some correct harmonies and voice leading.	Plays with a consistent tempo with dynamics and phrasing, and incorporates mostly correct voice leading.	Plays with appropriate and consistent tempo, dynamics, phrasing, voice leading and common practice harmonization.
Story telling	Plays motives that do not suggest movement and without attention to dynamics or articulation.	Plays few elements that suggest movement or the use of motives, but incorporates dynamics and articulation.	Plays some creative elements that encourage movement, with phrasing, dynamics and use of motives.	Plays many creative elements that inspire locomotor and non-locomotor movement and incorporate phrasing and dynamics and keyboard range in motivic development.
Improvise for movement	Improvises music for the above movements without regard to tempo, starting or stopping cues. Phrases unbalanced.	Improvises music for the above movements at the correct tempi, but starting & stopping cues are not always apparent. Phrases unbalanced.	Improvises music for the above movements with appropriate tempi and starting & stopping cues, but phrases are not always balanced nor musical.	Improvises music for walking, running, skipping, sliding, and jumping at appropriate tempi, starting & stopping cues, and with musical, balanced phrasing.
Improvise subdivisions	Unable to maintain a 2:1 or 4:1 pattern in the hands. Unable to switch subdivisions between hands.	Plays atonal sequences involving 2:1 and 4:1 with unbalanced phrasing. Unable to switch subdivision between hands.	Plays harmonic or atonal phrases involving 2:1 and 4:1 with balanced phrasing. Provides starting & stopping cues. Difficulty with moving subdivision easily between	Plays harmonic or atonal phrases involving 2:1 and 4:1 with balanced phrasing and musical melodic lines. Capable of changing subdivisions easily between hands, and provides

			hands.	starting & stopping cues.
Modulation	Unable to modulate from tonic to dominant. Harmonic structure not present.	Demonstrates modulation from tonic to dominant using chordal harmonies only.	Demonstrates simple modulations from tonic to dominant and back with balanced phrasing, but using more chordal than melodic structures.	Demonstrates simple modulations from tonic to dominant and back with balanced phrasing and interesting melodic ideas.
Rhythmic Pattern	Unable to maintain pattern. No sense of phrasing, no dynamics.	Maintains pattern but inconsistently, phrasing not balanced, some dynamics.	Consistently maintains pattern, dynamics and phrasing evident.	Pattern consistent, balanced and musical phrases, dynamics used effectively.