

MU150 Test Out Materials: Fall 2025 Semester (Performance, BA, Composition, Education Only)

Directions

For Performance, BA, Composition, and Education majors wishing to test-out of MU150 Piano Class 1 - prepare the requested exam materials to the best of your ability. These materials represent many of the topics that will be covered in MU150 throughout the Fall semester. Strong mastery of these skills must be demonstrated to pass the exam. Please feel free to contact the test administrator, Dr. Timothy Burns, if you have any questions as you prepare these materials.

Passing the Exam

You must score an 80% on each section of the exam to pass the test-out completely. Please note - for freshmen taking this exam at the beginning of the Fall semester, it is strongly recommended that you enroll in MU150 to reserve a seat in class.

In addition, it is possible to provisionally pass this exam by scoring 80% or higher on two out of three sections. You would then need to complete the remaining part of the exam by the last day of classes in the Fall semester. Those not completing the remaining part of the exam will not pass MU150, and they may delay completion of their keyboard skills degree requirement.

Contact

If you have any questions about this exam, please reach out to Dr. Timothy Burns, the MU150 test administrator, by email at tim.burns@colostate.edu.

Exam Requirements

Part 1 – Skills

1. Single octave major and minor scales (natural, harmonic, and melodic forms) – All scales performed in eighth note patterns, hands together, with proper finger patterns, at quarter equals 76 BPM. Prepare the following keys – F, C, G, D, A, E, B.
2. Single octave major and minor octave arpeggios – All arpeggios performed in triplet patterns, hands together, with proper finger patterns, at quarter equals 60 BPM. Prepare the following keys – F, C, G, D, A, E, B.

Part 2 – Repertoire

1. Perform *Festive Dance* – score is provided [starting on Page 3](#).
2. Sight-read a short piano work, hands together – practice samples provided [starting on Page 5](#).
3. Perform a lead sheet of your choice in left hand comping style (right hand melody, left hand chords) from the following list. Music is provided [starting on Page 12](#):
 - a. The First Noel
 - b. Dixie Land
 - c. Home on the Range
4. Tonally transpose a single line excerpt to one of the following keys of your choice: F Major, G Major, C Major. This single line is [provided on Page 15](#).

Part 3 – Music Theory

1. Perform two of the provided chord progressions in the keys of C, E, F and G, progressions and keys instructor's choice. Chord progressions are provided [starting on Page 15](#).
2. Improvise a first species counterpoint to the cantus firmus [provided on Page 16](#). Make sure that your counterpoint follows the rules consistent with first species counterpoint.

Exam Practice Materials

Part 2, Item 1: Festive Dance

28. FESTIVE DANCE

Carolyn Miller



TRACK 235 TRACK 235

Moderato 1

f

5

5

2nd time to Coda

1 5 8va

9

mf

1 3 2 4 1 1

13

1 3 2 4 2 3 D.C. al Coda

Festive Dance by Carolyn Miller. © 1996 by The Willis Music Co. This arrangement © 2010 by The Willis Music Co. International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted by permission of Hal Leonard Corporation.

17 Φ Coda*

mf

21

25

f

29

32

The musical score consists of five systems of music. The first system (measures 17-20) is marked 'mf' and includes a Coda symbol. The second system (measures 21-24) continues the melodic line. The third system (measures 25-28) is marked 'f' and features a more active bass line. The fourth system (measures 29-31) continues the 'f' dynamic. The fifth system (measures 32-35) concludes the piece with a final cadence. Fingerings and slurs are used throughout to guide the performer.

Part 2, Item 2 – Sight-reading Examples

1. Frankie and Johnny

Moderato

mf

Frank-ie and John - ny were lov - ers, Oh, Lord-y, how they could

love. They swore to be true to each oth - er, just as true as the stars a -

bove. He was her man, but he done her wrong.

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of three systems of music. The first system starts with a treble clef, a common time signature, and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Moderato' and the dynamic is 'mf'. The piano part has a bass clef and a common time signature. The vocal line is in the treble clef. The lyrics are: 'Frank-ie and John - ny were lov - ers, Oh, Lord-y, how they could'. The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics: 'love. They swore to be true to each oth - er, just as true as the stars a -'. The third system concludes the vocal line with the lyrics: 'bove. He was her man, but he done her wrong.' The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. A box with the number 4 is placed above the first measure of the second system, and a box with the number 8 is placed above the first measure of the third system.

2. Vive la compagnie

Vivace

5 1 4

mf *f*

5 1 3 1 2 5

5 3

mf *mp*

5 1 1 2

9 3 3

p *f*

5 3 1 2

3. Du, du liegst mir im Herzen

Moderato

6

11

mp *p* *mp* *rit.*

Detailed description: This musical score is for the piece 'Du, du liegst mir im Herzen' in 3/4 time, marked 'Moderato'. It consists of three systems of piano accompaniment. The first system (measures 1-5) features a treble clef with a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure and a bass clef with a triplet of eighth notes. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*. The second system (measures 6-10) continues the melody and accompaniment, with a *mp* dynamic. The third system (measures 11-15) concludes the piece with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking. Measure numbers 6 and 11 are indicated in boxes at the start of their respective systems.

4. My Hat Has Three Corners

Spirited

mf *mp*

Detailed description: This musical score is for the piece 'My Hat Has Three Corners' in 3/4 time, marked 'Spirited'. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system (measures 1-10) features a treble clef with a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure and a bass clef with a triplet of eighth notes. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. The second system (measures 11-15) continues the melody and accompaniment, with a *mp* dynamic. Measure numbers 1, 3, 5, 11, and 13 are indicated below the bass staff.

5. "Moderato" Example

Moderato

Two systems of musical notation for a piano piece in 3/4 time. The first system contains measures 1-3, and the second system contains measures 4-6. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first system starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. A slur covers the first two measures of the first system. The second system ends with a repeat sign.

6. "Allegretto" Example

Allegretto

Two systems of musical notation for a piano piece in 4/4 time. The first system contains measures 1-3, and the second system contains measures 4-6. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. A slur covers the first two measures of the first system. The second system ends with a repeat sign.

7. "Whimsical" Example

Whimsically

Measures 1-4 of the 'Whimsical' example. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo/mood is 'Whimsically'. The first staff (treble clef) features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 1, followed by quarter notes. The second staff (bass clef) provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-5. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) in measure 1 and *p* (piano) in measure 4. The piece concludes with a repeat sign in measure 4.

8. "Energetic" Example

Energetically

Measures 1-4 of the 'Energetic' example. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The tempo/mood is 'Energetically'. The first staff (treble clef) features a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The second staff (bass clef) provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-5. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) in measure 1, *p* (piano) in measure 3, and *f* (forte) in measure 4. The piece concludes with a repeat sign in measure 4.

9. "Brightly" Excerpt

Brightly

mf

5 1 1

5

10. "Joyfully" Excerpt

Joyfully

mp

5 3 1 5 2 1 5 2 1

5 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 4

mf

11. "With Spirit" Excerpt

With spirit

mf

The musical score is for a piano piece in E major (three sharps) and common time. It consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system contains measures 1 through 4. The melody in the treble staff is marked 'With spirit' and 'mf'. It begins with a quarter rest, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes, with a slur over measures 2 and 3. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Measure numbers 1, 3, 5, and 2 are placed below the bass staff. The second system contains measures 5 through 8. The melody continues with a slur over measures 6 and 7. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. Measure numbers 5 and 2 are placed below the bass staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 8.

Part 2, Item 3 – Lead Sheets

1. The First Noel

The First Noel

Traditional English Carol

C Am G F C

The__ First__ No - el the__ an - gel did say Was to

5 F C G⁷ C G⁷ C G⁷

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In__

9 C Am G F C

fields__ where they lay__ keep - ing their sheep On a

13 F C F G⁷ C G⁷ C G⁷

cold win - ter's night__ that was__ so deep. No -

17 C Am G F C G/B

- el__ No - el, No - el, No - el,

21 Am F C F G⁷ C G⁷ C

Born is the King__ of Is - ra - el.

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2. Dixie Land

Dixie Land

C *Traditional*

I wish I was in the land of cot - ton,
Dix - ie Land where I was born in,

old times there are not for - got - ten look a - way!
ear - ly on one frost - ty morn - in' look a - way! Look a -

way! Look a - way! Dix - ie Land In Land.

Then I wish I was in Dix - ie Hoo - ray! Hoo - ray! In

Dix - ie land, I'll take my stand to live and die in Dix - ie; A -

way, A - way, A - way down South in Dix - ie; A -

way, A - way, A - way down South in Dix - ie

3. Home on the Range

Home on the Range

Traditional Folk Song

The musical score for "Home on the Range" is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "Home, home on the range; where the deer and the antelope play. Where seldom is heard a discouraging word, and the skies are not cloudy all day." The chords are: G, D7, G, B7, Em, A7, D7, G, C, Am, G, D7, G.

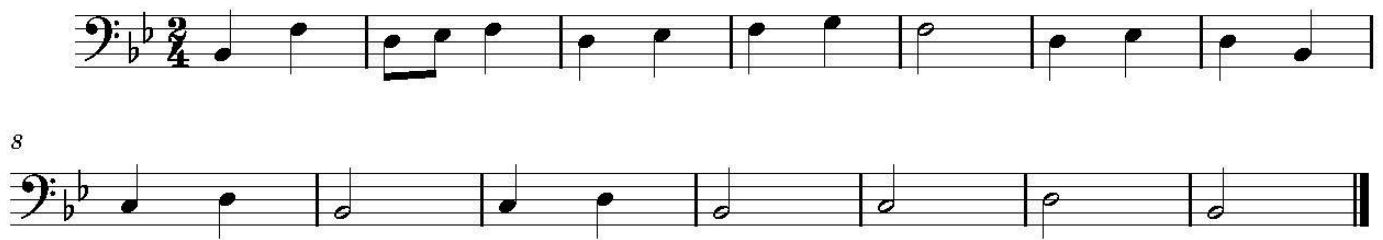
Home, home on the range; where the

deer and the an - te - lope play. Where

sel - dom is heard a dis - cou - ag - ing word, and the

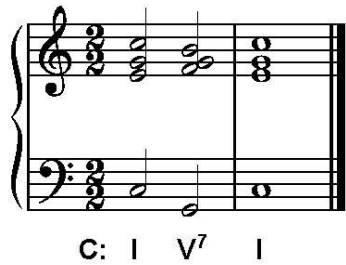
skies are not cloud - y all day.

Part 2, Item 4 – Single Line for Transposition

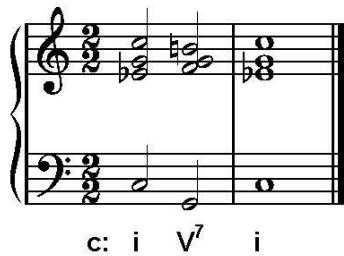


Part 3, Item 1 – Chord Progressions

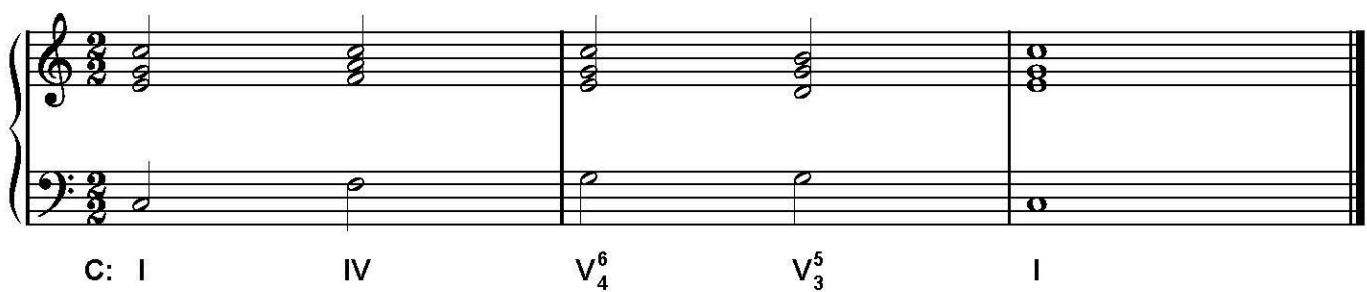
1. Progression 1



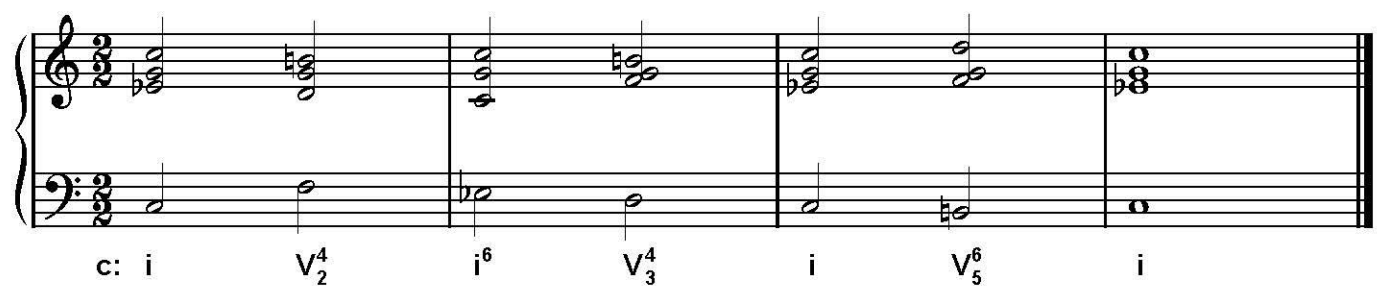
2. Progression 2



3. Progression 3



4. Progression 4



Part 3, Item 2 – Cantus Firmus for First Species Counterpoint

