**Piano 4**

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**www.hamiltonpiano.org**

**Course Description**

Piano 4 is the intermediate level of Piano and may be entered by satisfactorily completing Piano 3 or by audition. It includes advanced intermediate literature; differentiation between the styles of music history periods; it expands on pedal, wrist and finger technique; it also includes keyboard harmony; lastly, it emphasizes better sight-reading and performance practices.

To complete this level, the student should be able to:

* Accurately execute simple and compound time signatures
* Understand ornamentation symbols and their interpretation
* Effectively contour and shade melodic lines
* Differentiate between melody and accompaniment by playing one hand or voice louder than the other or others (for example, in a Classical piece which has a RH melody and LH accompaniment)
* Recognize scales within a piece
* Recognize broken and block chords within a piece
* Recognize dominant 7th chords in all positions
* Recognize and interpret stylistic differences in music from the major musical history periods
* Play longer pieces with increasing technical skill, control, and accuracy
* Play all major and minor scales and chords in a variety of rhythms up to 3 octaves

**Required Materials**

* Headphones with adaptor (**iPod earbuds are not ideal and must use an adaptor with an extension**)
* Loose leaf binder with lined paper and section dividers
* Pencil and eraser

**Assignments and Performances**

Students will no longer use a lesson book, but will be assigned individual pieces and theory pages. While level 5 and up students are required to perform in a recital at Hamilton High School at least once a semester, level 4 students perform publicly by invitation only.

**Recital Attendance**

Level 4 students are required to attend two piano recitals per semester here at Hamilton High School. Extra credit will be given for turning in a type-written critique within a week of the recital. If students are unable to attend one of the piano recitals here at Hamilton High School, they may choose an outside professional piano recital (recital of a private piano teacher’s studio does not count), and in this case a type-written critique is required for credit. No credit is given for attending an outside professional piano recital unless a critique, along with proof of attendance, are submitted.

Occasionally, level 4 students are invited to perform in a piano recital here at Hamilton High School.

**Practicing**

Students are required to practice a minimum of one hour daily outside of class. An average of 7 hours a week practice outside of class is crucial. Piano practice should be done before school or before other homework when the student first arrives home. The mind and body are too tired to practice effectively if the student postpones practice until other homework is done.

**Piano Lessons**

Although not required at level 4, it is highly recommended that the student have a weekly one-hour lesson with a private teacher. At level 5, this becomes a strong requirement. The most successful and accomplished students have a private teacher. This teacher should assign classical pieces, scales, theory and technical exercises, and should hold regular recitals and/or exams. To find a teacher who meets these standards, I recommend going online to [www.MTAC.org](http://www.MTAC.org) and clicking on “find a teacher”.

**Tardy Policy**

3 unexcused tardies= Unsatisfactory mark on the next report card

**Classroom Behavior and Expectations**

* **Daily attendance** is critical to learning piano. Students with excused absences will be allowed to make up work as per LAUSD policy; however, consistent attendance is key to success in music. Participation points are lost with excessive absences.
* It is **IMPERATIVE** that students **participate in guided practice during class** by listening to instructions, giving it their full attention, and playing along at the piano. Students who do not actively participate in class will lose participation points!
* The school’s progressive discipline policy will be enforced.
* Be respectful at all times to all people.
* No food or drinks at your seat (Plain water is OK but away from the piano).
* Respect the instruments. Wash or cleanse your hands before class. Hand sanitizer is available at the front of the classroom. Keep pianos clean and free of marks, gum, and trash. **Do not use hand lotion in this class.**
* **Fingernails must be kept short and trimmed**. Students will lose points for incorrect hand position!
* There will be no talking or playing instruments aloud without direct instruction to do so.
* **Cell phones, tablets, and laptops are OK as long as they are being used in relation to the lesson.**
* At the end of class, remain in your seat until dismissed. Turn off piano, close the lid, and push in bench before leaving the classroom.
* Have your own materials. Bring all materials to class each and every time you come to class.
* Forgotten headphones or adaptors may be rented from Piano Club for a fee of 25 cents.
* You are allowed to use the restroom during class only in the event of an emergency and, as per Hamilton High School policy, you may not leave the classroom during the first and last 15 minutes of each class period.

**Homework and Grading Policies**

Academic grades are based on cumulative point totals determined by class participation, public and classroom performances, written tests, quizzes, daily class work, mini-lessons, extra credit, and projects.

When homework is assigned, please write down the due date and turn it in accordingly.

**Please refer to this course description and talk to me if you have any questions/problems/concerns in our class.**