**Piano 5**

**Teacher: Ms. Lajmanovich**

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**www.hamiltonpiano.org**

**Course Description**

Piano level 5 is the late intermediate level of Piano and may be entered by satisfactorily completing Piano 4 or by audition. Level 5 includes progressively challenging literature; differentiation between the styles of music history periods; exercises on pedal, wrist and finger technique; keyboard harmony; and lastly, they emphasize fluent sight-reading and strong performance practices.

In level 5, students will be able to:

* Accurately read and execute rhythm in the exercises and pieces assigned in class
* Differentiate between melody and accompaniment, and accurately reflect it when playing (for example, play the left hand accompaniment clearly and significantly softer than the right hand melody or vice-versa)
* Recognize and identify scales within a piece
* Recognize and identify broken and block chords within a piece
* Accurately and clearly reflect dynamics, tempo changes, and other markings in musical scores
* 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 (1 octave in quarter notes, 2 octaves in eighth notes, 3 octaves in eighth note triplets, 4 octaves in sixteenth notes)

**Required Materials**

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

**Assignments and Performances**

Students will be assigned individual pieces and theory pages. The pieces assigned will be *over and above* those assigned by the private teacher, and the goal is to memorize and perfect them for performance within the given time limit. Level 5 students are required to perform in a recital at Hamilton High School at least once a semester.

**Recital Attendance**

There are two piano recitals per semester at AMPA. Students at level 5 are required to attend one and perform in the other (while levels 6 and 7 should perform in both recitals per semester). Extra credit can be given for additional, professional recitals (not the private teacher’s studio recital) that students attend and write a critique about.

**Practicing**

Students are required to practice 1-2 hours daily outside of class. An average of 7-14 hours a week practice (depending on level of difficulty of repertoire) 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**

It is highly recommended that beginning in level 5, students take private lessons outside of school. 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**

* Consistent attendance is critical to music learning. Although excused absences merit make-ups as per LAUSD policy, keep in mind that participation points are lost with excessive absences.
* When guided practice is taking place in class, you must participate by giving it your full attention and playing along in all of the exercises, scales, and/or pieces.
* 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 in 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**.
* There will be no talking or playing instruments out loud 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 may use the restroom during class time if it is an emergency; however, 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 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/issues/concerns in our class.**