**Piano 6/7**

**Teacher: Ms. Lajmanovich**

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**www.hamiltonpiano.org**

**Course Description**

Piano levels 6 and 7 are the early advanced and later advanced levels of Piano and may be entered by satisfactorily completing Piano 5 or by audition. These higher levels of piano include **advanced 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.**

To complete these levels, the student should be able to:

* Accurately execute simple and compound time signatures
* Understand ornamentation symbols and their interpretation
* Accurately contour and shade melodic lines
* Recognize and identify all scales within a piece
* Recognize and identify all broken and block chords within a piece
* Recognize dominant 7th chords in all positions
* Recognize and accurately interpret stylistic differences in music from the major musical history periods, and learn at least one new piece from each historical period: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionistic, and XX Century/Contemporary
* Demonstrate dedication towards piano studies both in length and quality of practicing
* Use the piano pedals with proper technique and in accordance with the style of piece performed
* Play longer pieces with increasing technical skill, control, and accuracy
* Perform repertoire from memory
* Make rapid adjustments to playing based on feedback provided during the lesson
* 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)
* Mentor level 5 students in the class, as assigned by Ms. L

**Required Materials**

* Headphones with adaptor (**iPod earbuds are not ideal and must use an adaptor with an extension**)
* Loose leaf binder with lined paper where musical scores are to be kept in order
* 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 6 and 7 students are required to perform twice a semester at Hamilton High School.

In addition to piano recitals, students in levels 6 and 7 may be asked to accompany the musical and take advantage of any other opportunities to accompany music students playing various instruments or singing. If we have a concerto competition, level 6 and 7 students should participate. Students at this level are often relied upon for accompaniment to choir, band, orchestra and other ensembles.

**Recital Performances**

Students at levels 6 and 7 are required to be involved in two piano recitals per semester here at the school. Extra credit can be given for additional, professional recitals (not the private teacher’s studio recital) that students attend and write a critique about (guidelines are posted on our class website: www.hamiltonpiano.org).

**Practicing**

Students are required to practice 2 to 3 hours daily outside of class. Extra credit will be given to students who maintain a regular 5-week practice record. An average of 14-21 hours a week practice outside of class is crucial. The students’ playing ability must reflect the amount of time indicated or no extra credit will be given. 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”.

**Classroom Behavior and Expectations**

* Daily, consistent attendance is critical to success.
* Three tardies may equal a U in work habits
* Students are required to participate when guided practice takes place in class.
* The school’s progressive discipline policy will be enforced.
* Be respectful at all times to all people.
* **No food or drinks at your seat**
* Respect the instruments. No pounding on the keys or playing glissando. Wash or cleanse your hands before class. 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 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 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 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 in order to receive full credit.

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