

# Level I

Recommended reference: *Fundamentals of Piano Theory*: Preparatory Level

## Technique Requirements (See appendix A for examples)

Keys: CM/cm OR GM/gm OR FM/fm (for Classical Festival choose one set)

1. **Five finger pattern:** Hands together, up and down.
2. **Chords:** Root position tonic chord: To be played after execution of scale, above.
3. **Arpeggio:** Hand over hand, two octaves, up and down.

## Theory Requirements

### 1. Note reading

All notes on grand staff plus middle C. (No other ledger lines required)  
Accidentals: sharp, flat, natural

### 2. Note and rest values

Whole, half, dotted half, and quarter notes. Quarter, half, and whole rests

### 3. Time signatures 2/4 3/4 4/4

### 4. Key Signatures: CM, GM, FM

### 5. Intervals

Half and whole steps

2nds, 3rds, 4ths, 5ths based on C, G and F. (Quantity only)

### 6. Scales

Five finger patterns (notes) for CM, GM, FM and cm, gm, fm

Half and whole step pattern for major and minor five finger patterns.

### 7. Chords

Tonic triads for CM, GM, FM and cm, gm, fm

## Vocabulary

**Accidental:** Any sharp, flat or natural that appears in the music. Accidentals last for until the next bar line.

**sharp:** Raise the note one-half step to the very next key higher.

**flat:** Lower the note one-half step to the very next key lower .

**natural:** Cancel the sharp or flat.

**enharmonic notes:** Notes that sound the same and look the same on the keyboard but are written differently.

**Articulation:** Signs that tell you how to touch and release the keys.

**accent:** Strong emphasis

**legato:** Play smooth and connected

**staccato:** Play short and detached

**tenuto:** Hold for the full value with a slight emphasis

**tie:** A curved line between 2 notes of the same pitch. Each note is held for the full value but only the first note is played.

**slur:** A curved line over 2 or more notes that means to play those notes legato

**Chord:** Three or more notes sounded together.

**triad:** A three note chord

**root position triad\*:** A three note chord each note a third apart

**arpeggio\*:** a chord played with one note after the other (broken chord)

**tonic\*:** The first note of a scale or the triad built on the first note of a scale.

**Dynamics:** Signs that tell us how loud or soft to play

**piano (p)** soft

**mezzo piano (mp)** medium soft

**mezzo forte (mf)** medium loud

**forte (f)** loud

**crescendo (cresc)** gradually louder.

**decrescendo\* (decresc)** gradually softer

**diminuendo (dim)** gradually softer.

**Interval:** The distance between two notes

**half step:** The distance from one key to the very next key (no key between)

**whole step:** The distance from one key to the next key with one note between (2 half steps)

**Signatures:** Found at the beginning of a piece of music the clef sign

**key signature:** Sharps or flats placed on each staff. This tells you the tonic note or key.

**time signature:** The two numbers written at the beginning of a piece of music right after the key signature. The top number tells how many beats are in a measure. The bottom note tells you what kind of note gets one beat.

**Staff:** Five lines with four spaces on which music is written :

**treble clef sign (G Clef):** Used at the beginning of the treble staff denoting higher notes

**bass clef sign (F clef):** Used at the beginning of the bass staff denoting lower notes

**grand staff:** The treble staff and the bass staff joined together with a brace and bar line

**bar line:** divides music into measures

**measure:** The space between two bar lines .

**double bar line:** Placed at the end of a piece .

**repeat sign:** play the music again

**Tempos:** (slow to fast) .

**andante:** walking tempo

**moderato:** moderately .

**allegro:** fast

**Changing tempo:**

**fermata:** Hold the note longer

**ritardando:** (rit.) gradually slower .

**a tempo:** return to the tempo before the change

**Composer\*:** A person who writes music