YALE SCHOOL OF MUSIC
KEYBOARD PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

The Keyboard Proficiency Requirements exist in order to inform students of those skills which will be expected in various professional capacities, and which facilitate aural discrimination and comprehension of musical structure. The requirements are tailored to each major.

The Keyboard Proficiency Requirements must be met in order to receive the Master of Music degree, and to apply for the Master of Musical Arts program. Students enrolled in the Certificate program are encouraged to complete the requirements in the event that at some future time they should decide to earn the Master of Music degree.

PIANO
1) To sight-read an accompaniment of considerable difficulty while a singer or instrumentalist performs.

2) To transpose an accompaniment up or down by a minor or major third; two minutes of preparation are allowed.

3) To improvise a short prelude in the style of the piece used for #1 or #2; to modulate from another key to the key of that piece.

ORGAN
*N.B. This proficiency will be administered first semester by the organ faculty. Need for an additional examination will be determined at that time.
1) To perform a simple piano piece of the candidate’s choice.

2) To sight-read a four-part choral piece, open score.

3) To realize a figured bass at sight.

4) To transpose a hymn at sight.

COMPOSITION
1) To play cadential progressions in all keys, utilizing chromatic harmony.

2) To sight-read a simple tonal and atonal composition.

3) To realize a figured bass at sight.

4) To effectively harmonize a simple melody at sight.
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KEYBOARD PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

VOICE  
1) To perform a simple song accompaniment of the candidate’s choice.

2) To play major and minor scales, one hand at a time, two octaves, $\frac{8\text{ notes}}{\text{60 sec}}$.

3) To play major arpeggios, one hand at a time, two octaves, $\frac{\text{3 notes}}{\text{60 sec}}$.

4) To sight-read at the keyboard an atonal vocal line in strict rhythm.

STRINGS, HARP, GUITAR  
1) To perform a simple piano piece of the candidate’s choice.

2) To sight-read a simple piano piece.

3) To sight-read two lines of a string quartet; the lines will be notated in two clefs—one common to the candidate’s instrument and the other not.

WOODWINDS, BRASS, PERCUSSION  
1) To perform a simple piano piece of the candidate’s choice.

2) To play and recognize by ear the following chord progressions in minor and major keys with up to two sharps or flats:
   a) I IV vii iii vi ii V I
   b) I ii6 V7 I
   c) I V7/vi vi V7/IV IV V7/ii ii V7 vi

CHORAL CONDUCTING*  
*N.B. This proficiency will be administered first semester by the choral conducting faculty. Need for an additional examination will be determined at that time.

1) To sight-read a Bach chorale in open score, using three C clefs and bass clef.

2) To transpose wind and brass parts at sight.

3) To play choral parts from a score chosen by the candidate.

4) To sight-read a string quartet.

ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING  
Administered at time of admission.

HARPSICHORD  
Reviewed by the department.