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MUS 115A.04: Piano in Class I

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Welcome to Music 115 – your opportunity to learn to play the piano comfortably and musically! The following suggestions should help you to get the most out of the class:

1. Regular class attendance is of significant importance for making steady progress. Since all concepts are introduced as well as reinforced in class, you will want to make class attendance a priority. Because progress is often a direct reflection of daily work and class attendance, more than three recorded absences will result in a lowered grade. Please make every effort to notify the instructor in advance when you have a schedule conflict.

2. Playing the piano is an acquired skill. Be sure to write down all assignments and practice each assignment thoroughly. Daily work is the key to success. A minimum of five practice sessions per week of 30-45 minutes each should ensure good progress. Some of your practice can be done away from the piano – such as naming notes in each clef, tapping rhythms of two lines at once, etc. Concentration is essential. Excellent practice produces excellent results.

3. Practice rooms may be reserved by showing your class schedule to the receptionist in the Music Department office, Room 101. You may reserve up to one hour per day in any available practice room on the lower floor of the music building. Please make regular use of your scheduled time so that practice rooms don't go empty.

4. Examinations: In order to check your progress and assure that your work is on track, there will be several graded observations that are scheduled, and several "daily" quizzes. Your work will be evaluated according to the following formula:

   Daily work, attendance, and "daily quizzes:" 25%
   Scheduled exams (including "final") 75%
   100%

BEST WISHES for a productive and enjoyable semester!
Course outline for Music 115 (all sections)

Week One: Unit One – Keyboard Basics such as Fingering, Note Reading, Clef Reading, Notes on Keyboard, Flats and Sharps, Intervals, etc. Pieces for Hands Separately.

Week Two: Unit Two – Time Signatures, Key Signatures, Five-finger Major patterns on white keys, pieces for two hands, Dynamics, Legato, Staccato, Sight Reading, Harmonization with Harmonic 5ths.

Week Three: Unit Three – White key Five-finger patterns with triads; pieces with parallel motion; pieces with simple accompaniments;

Week Four: Continue Unit Three – Review materials pp. 1-41

Week Five: Review and Exam Week

Week Six: Assignments to be selected from Unit 3 pieces with extended range; Unit 4 Black Key Major Patterns; choose solo for upcoming performance. Selected pieces from Unit 4.

Week Seven: Continue Unit 4; White Key Major and Minor Patterns; Arpeggios (hand over hand); further development of technical, reading, and repertoire skills

Week Eight: Solo Week – Each student will perform a selected solo in a “class recital”

Week Nine: Review and Exam Week.

Week Ten: All Major and Minor Patterns, All Major and Minor Triads; Simple Harmonization repertoire from Unit 4; Begin Unit 5. Pick New Solo.

Week Eleven: Unit Six; Harmonization with Triads, broken and blocked; Ensemble pieces; increasingly complex repertoire. Improve Reading Skills, Expressive skills – touch, dynamics; Introduction of Major Scales

Week Twelve: Solo and Ensemble pieces from units 7-8; Technical exercises from Units 7-8. Triadic accompaniments to melodic lines; Tonic and Dominant Chord Progressions

Week Thirteen: White Key Major Scales and Arpeggios, hands separately; Pieces and Technique from Units 9-10; Chords and Inversions; Tonic, Subdominant and Dominant Chord Progressions introduced. (Units 11-12)

Week Fourteen: Review, Performances of Solo(s).

Week Fifteen: Final Examination