

JAZZ PIANO PIECES GRADE 1

The Jazz Piano and Jazz Ensembles Syllabus sets out in detail the requirements of the exams, especially those for scales, aural tests and the quick study. It also contains the assessment criteria. The syllabus is obtainable from music dealers or from The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, 14 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3JG (please send a stamped addressed C5 envelope).

Scales and Arpeggios

To be played from memory, straight or swing as directed by the examiner.

SCALES: with each hand separately in the following forms:

Dorian on D; Mixolydian on G; C major (two octaves)

Major pentatonic on C; $\flat 3$ pentatonic on G (five notes)

ARPEGGIOS: the common chords of G major and D minor, in root position only, with each hand separately (one octave).

Three Pieces

One chosen by the candidate from each of the three lists: Blues, Standards and Contemporary Jazz.

HEAD. On the first playing the fully notated head should be closely followed, but it may also be interpreted more flexibly, with variation in details of melody, rhythm, voicing, phrasing, etc., provided the result is coherent, stylish, musical and does not alter the technical level.

SOLO. The guideline right-hand pitches and left-hand part are given solely as a starting-point and to indicate the style. It is expected that candidates will expand upon the given musical materials as their experience allows, also using other pitches, voicings and figurations.

AFTER THE SOLO(S). Everything after the solo(s) may be embellished in a number of ways, from a few simple additions or variations to a more extensive reworking. Exact repetition should be avoided, so as to achieve a more interesting result.

At Grade 1 such embellishment might mean making small melodic or rhythmic changes or varying dynamics or phrasing. At Grade 3 players might change the octaves at which material is played, introduce fills or revoice chords. At Grade 5 harmony may be varied or enriched with extensions, melodic lines may be thickened or ornamented, and rhythms and phrasing reinterpreted. Or none of the above and a completely different set of embellishments! Players have a range of options at all grades and may offer any musical embellishments in keeping with the style.

RELATED LISTENING. Every effort was made to ensure that the CDs listed at the foot of each piece were available at the time of going to press. However, jazz recordings regularly go in and out of print, and if the one cited has now been deleted look for a compilation album by the same artist on the same record label, or buy a related album by the same musician or band.

Quick Study

To play a two-bar passage for one hand only and improvise a two-bar continuation (see the syllabus for full details). The quick study may be played at sight or by ear.

Aural Tests

See the syllabus for full details of the aural tests for the grade.

The volumes of pieces and scales are published by the Board, together with books of sample quick studies and aural tests and a range of other support materials. Full details are given on the back cover of this volume.

NOTE: the Jazz Piano exams will initially be available only in the UK.

JAZZ PIANO PIECES GRADE 1

Edited by Charles Beale

Blues

- 1 RICHARD MICHAEL
Bedford Square Blues 2
- 2 CHARLES MINGUS, *arr. Nikki Iles*
O, Lord, Please don't let them drop that Atomic Bomb on me 4
- 3 MILT JACKSON, *arr. Richard Michael*
Bag's Groove 6
- 4 SIMON WHITESIDE
Slinky Thing 8
- 5 PHIL PESKETT
Prove you Groove 10

Standards

- 1 JUAN TIZOL, *arr. Richard Michael*
Perdido 12
- 2 FRANK LOESSER, *arr. Nikki Iles*
Inchworm 14
- 3 MILES DAVIS, *arr. Charles Beale*
Jean Pierre 16
- 4 NAT ADDERLEY & CURTIS R. LEWIS, *arr. Phil Peskett*
(Old Man from) The Old Country 18
- 5 BILLY AUSTIN & LOUIS JORDAN, *arr. Eddie Harvey*
Is you is, or Is you ain't (ma' Baby)? 20

Contemporary Jazz

- 1 NIKKI ILES
Bottle Junction 22
- 2 EDDIE HARVEY
Blue Autumn 23
- 3 PHIL PESKETT
He is sadly melting 24
- 4 MICHAEL GARRICK
Here we go again 25
- 5 HUW WARREN
Yokate 26

A CD for Grade 1 is available containing recordings of all the pieces for the grade, together with examples of aural tests, quick studies and scales. Three of the pieces, 'Bag's Groove', 'Perdido' and 'Yokate', are also presented on the CD in 'minus one' versions, for you to play along with bass and drums.

BEDFORD SQUARE BLUES

Richard Michael

Medium Swing ♩ = 126 Cheerful

HEAD

The musical score for "Bedford Square Blues" is written for piano in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The tempo is marked "Medium Swing" at 126 beats per minute, and the mood is "Cheerful".

System 1 (Measures 1-4): The treble staff begins with a G7 chord in measure 1, followed by a C7 chord in measure 2, and a G7 chord in measure 3. The bass staff has a 1/5 interval in measure 1, a 1/2 interval in measure 2, and a 4/4 interval in measure 3. The dynamics are marked *p* (piano) in measure 1 and *f* (forte) in measure 3.

System 2 (Measures 5-8): The treble staff has a C7 chord in measure 5 and a G7 chord in measure 7. The bass staff has an 8 interval in measure 5 and an 8 interval in measure 6. The dynamics are marked *p* (piano) in measure 5 and *f* (forte) in measure 7.

System 3 (Measures 9-12): The treble staff has a D7 chord in measure 9, a C7 chord in measure 10, and a G7 chord in measure 11. The bass staff has a 9 interval in measure 9, an 8 interval in measure 10, and a 4 interval in measure 11. The dynamics are marked *p* (piano) in measure 9 and *ff* (fortissimo) in measure 11. The score concludes with the instruction "to Coda" and a Coda symbol.

SOLOS

G7

C7

G7

D7

C7

G7

D.C. al Coda
Solo 12 bars in exam

⊕ CODA

G7

O, LORD, PLEASE DON'T LET THEM DROP THAT ATOMIC BOMB ON ME

Charles Mingus arr. Nikki Iles

Slow Swing ♩ = 80 Lazy

HEAD

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system is marked 'HEAD' and begins with a 'C' chord. The second system features 'F' and 'C' chords. The third system features 'Dm7', 'G7sus', and 'C' chords. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above notes. Dynamics include 'mp' (mezzo-piano) and '5' (fifth). The score includes a variety of musical notations such as chords, single notes, and slurs.

System 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Chord: C. Fingerings: 4 1, 5 1. Dynamic: mp. Bass clef: 4/4 time. Chord: C. Chord: C7.

System 2: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Chord: F. Chord: C. Fingerings: 1, 2. Bass clef: 4/4 time. Chord: F. Chord: C.

System 3: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Chord: Dm7. Chord: G7sus. Chord: C. Fingerings: 3, 5 1. Bass clef: 4/4 time. Chord: Dm7. Chord: G7sus. Chord: C.

SOLOS

C7

13

F7

C7

17

Dm7

G7

C7

Solo 12 bars in exam

21

HEAD continues

Dm7

G7sus

C

Db7

C7

Fill

25

• NOTES: Also try improvising using the major pentatonic on C.

• RELATED LISTENING: Charles Mingus: 'O, Lord, Please don't let them drop that Atomic Bomb on me' from Oh Yeah! [Atlantic]

BAG'S GROOVE

Milt Jackson arr. Richard Michael

Medium Swing ♩ = 108 With a light touch but grooving

HEAD

Chord changes: G7, C7, G7, C7, G7, D7, C7, G7

Dynamics: *mp*, *p*, *mf*

Tempo: Medium Swing ♩ = 108

Style: With a light touch but grooving

Section: HEAD

Measure numbers: 1, 2, 5, 1, 3, 4, 9

Instruction: to Coda ⊕

SOLOS

G7

13

C7

G7

17

D7

C7

G7

D. al Coda
Solo 12 bars in exam

21

mp
(last time only)

⊕ CODA

D7

C7

G7

25

SLINKY THING

Simon Whiteside

Slow Swing ♩ = 104 Slow and slinky

Dm7 5 1

pp *p*

HEAD

Dm7

4 3 3 1 3

G7 Dm7

9 4 3

Bb7 A7 Dm7 A7

13 *cresc.* *f* *to Coda* ⊕

5 2 4 1 3

SOLOS

Dm7

17

G7

Dm7

21

*D. Solo al Coda**Solo 12 bars in exam*

Bb7

A7

Dm7

A7

25

⊕ CODA

rit.

Dm7

A7

Dm7¹¹

Fill

29

• NOTES: Also try improvising using Dorian on D, and explore using the notes A and Ab.

• RELATED LISTENING: The Nat King Cole Trio: 'The Frim Fram Sauce' from *The Best of the Nat King Cole Trio* [Capitol]

PROVE YOU GROOVE

Phil Peskett

Straight 8s Rock ♩ = 108 Solid, insistent

HEAD

System 1: Treble clef starts with a **G7** chord. Notes: F#4 (5), G#4 (2), A4 (1), B4 (3), C5, D5, E5, F#5. Bass clef starts with a **G7** chord. Notes: G3 (5), F#3 (2), E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. *mp cresc. throughout*

System 2: Treble clef starts with a **C7** chord. Notes: C4 (4), D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5. Bass clef starts with a **C7** chord. Notes: C3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2, D2, C2. *mp cresc. throughout*

System 3: Treble clef starts with a **G7** chord. Notes: F#4, G#4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5. Bass clef starts with a **G7** chord. Notes: G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. *to Coda ⊕ Am7*

System 4: Treble clef starts with a **D7** chord. Notes: D4 (5), C#4 (1), B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Bass clef starts with a **D7** chord. Notes: D3, C#3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2, D2. *mp* *ff*

SOLOS

G7

13

C7

G7

17

*D.C. al Coda**Solo 12 bars in exam*

Am7

D7

G7

D7

21

CODA

Am7

D7

G7

rit.

Ab7 G7

25

- NOTES: Also try playing the opening left-hand pattern in your solo, e.g.

in the G7 bars and

in bars 17 and 18.

- RELATED LISTENING: Herbie Hancock: 'Watermelon Man' from *Takin' Off* [Blue Note]

PERDIDO

Juan Tizol arr. Richard Michael

Medium Swing ♩ = 104 Grooving

HEAD

The image displays two staves of musical notation for the song "The Girl on the Train" by Rachel Watson. The music is written in 4/4 time and features a piano accompaniment. The first staff shows the initial measures, with a piano (p) dynamic marking. The second staff continues the piece, including a forte (f) dynamic marking and a first ending bracket. Chord symbols (Dm7, G7, C) are placed above the treble clef staff. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, accidentals, and articulation marks.

SOLOS

The first system of the musical score for 'The Rose Tree' consists of two staves. The treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains a sequence of notes: a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note G4. These notes are grouped by a slur. Above the treble staff, the chords Dm7, G7, and C are indicated. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and contains a sequence of notes: a half note F3, a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, and a half note F3. These notes are also grouped by a slur. Below the bass staff, the chords Dm7, G7, and C are indicated. The system is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines.

Solo 7 bars in exam

The musical score is for a piano piece in D minor, 3/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has two measures. The first measure is marked with a **Dm7** chord and contains a treble clef, a bass clef, and a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The second measure is marked with a **G7** chord and contains a treble clef, a bass clef, and a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The second system has two measures. The first measure is marked with a **C** chord and contains a treble clef, a bass clef, and a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic marking. The second measure is marked with a **C** chord and contains a treble clef, a bass clef, and a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic marking. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

HEAD continues

• NOTES: Also try playing some left-hand vamps in your solo, e.g.

• RELATED LISTENING: Duke Ellington: 'Perdido' from *In a Mellotone* [RCA]

INCHWORM

Frank Loesser arr. Nikki Iles

Medium/Slow Swing ♩ = 96 Jazz Waltz

HEAD

G F G F G 3
 mf
 1

C/E G/D D7sus D7 G/D Gm/D
 6 p
 3

G/D Gm/D G C/E G/D D7 Gsus G
 11 mf
 2

SOLOS

G7/D

Gm7/D

Solo 8 bars in exam

17

HEAD continues

G/D

Gm/D

G/D

Gm/D

21 *p*

G

C/E

G/D

D7

rall.

Gsus

G

25 *mf*

JEAN PIERRE

Miles Davis arr. Charles Beale

Straight 8s ♩ = 84 Slow funk – quiet, insistent

9m C7

HEAD

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SOLOS

13 *sub. p*

Solo 8 bars in exam

17

HEAD continues

21 *pp*

ppp

• NOTES: Explore using the notes E and Eb in your solo.

• RELATED LISTENING: Miles Davis: 'Jean Pierre' from *We Want Miles* [Columbia]

B $\flat$ Δ 2 E7 E $\emptyset$ 5 A7 Dm7 to Coda $\oplus$

13 *mp cresc.* *f*

G7 Break SOLO Dm7 G7 Dm7 G7

17

Dm7 G7 D7 F Solo 7 bars in exam D.S. al Coda

22

$\oplus$ CODA G7 Dm7 G7 $\sharp$ 11 *mp* 3 1 *ff* *P*

26

• RELATED LISTENING: Keith Jarrett: "(Old Man from) The Old Country" from Standards Live [ECM]

IS YOU IS, OR IS YOU AIN'T (MA' BABY)?

Billy Austin & Louis Jordan arr. Eddie Harvey

Medium Swing ♩ = 152 Bright

HEAD

Am

AmΔ

Am7

Am6

D7

G7

C

E7

SOLO

Am

AmΔ

Am7

Am6

D7

G7

C

C7

Solo 8 bars in exam

HEAD continues

17

F/A Fm/Ab C/G C7

21 *cresc.*

F Fm C E7

25 *p*

Am AmΔ Am7 Am6

29 *cresc.*

D7 G7 E7 A7

mf *f*

33

D7 G7 C Bb7 B7 C7

ff *P*

• RELATED LISTENING: The Nat King Cole Trio: 'Is you is, or Is you ain't (ma' Baby)?' from *Too Marvellous for Words* [Charly]

Nikki Iles

Medium up Swing ♩ = 108 **Playful**

HEAD

HEAD

1 3

mf

cresc.

f

G/D

D

G/D straight 8s

D

4

to Coda ☼

D7sus G

5

mf

cresc.

f

A7sus A7

G/D swing

D7sus G

4

3

SOLOS

SOLOS

G7 **F7**

D. al Coda
Solo 12 bars in exam

11 (1st time only)

mf (last time only)

$\oplus$ *CODA*

[illegible]

- **RELATED LISTENING:** Paul Bley: Footloose [Savoy]

BLUE AUTUMN

Eddie Harvey

Straight 8s Rock ♩ = 120 **Melancholy**

HEAD

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system consists of a piano introduction and the first line of the song. The piano introduction is in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The piano introduction starts with a half note G2, followed by a half note F2, and then a half note E2. The first line of the song is in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The first line of the song starts with a half note G2, followed by a half note F2, and then a half note E2. The second system consists of the second line of the song. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The second line of the song starts with a half note G2, followed by a half note F2, and then a half note E2. The piano introduction is marked with a piano (p) dynamic, and the first line of the song is marked with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The second line of the song is marked with a piano (p) dynamic.

The musical score for the piano accompaniment of "The Rose Tree" is written in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score consists of two systems. The first system contains measures 9 through 12. Measure 9 has a G7 chord and a bass line with a 1/4 note G and a 3/4 rest. Measure 10 has a C7 chord and a bass line with a 2/4 note B-flat and a 2/4 rest. Measure 11 has an F7 chord and a bass line with a 1/4 note F and a 3/4 rest. Measure 12 has a Bb7 chord and a bass line with a 1/4 note B-flat and a 3/4 rest. The second system contains measures 13 through 16. Measure 13 has a Dm chord and a bass line with a 1/4 note D and a 3/4 rest. Measure 14 has a G/D chord and a bass line with a 1/4 note G and a 3/4 rest. Measure 15 has a Dm chord and a bass line with a 1/4 note D and a 3/4 rest. Measure 16 has a G/D chord and a bass line with a 1/4 note G and a 3/4 rest. The score ends with a "to Coda" instruction and a Coda symbol.

SOLOS

13

Dm G/D Dm G/D Dm G/D Dm G/D

mf
(last time only)

D.8 al Coda
Solo 8 bars in exam

⊕ CODA

- **RELATED LISTENING:** Gil Evans: *Out of the Cool* [Impulse!]

HE IS SADLY MELTING

Phil Peskett

Straight 8s ♩ = 66 With resignation

HEAD

1 C/E 2 F C/E

mp

P *Ped. simile*

4 F G7sus D/F# F D/F# G7sus G7

cresc. *mf*

P *Ped. simile*

SOLOS

8 C/E F C/E F

P *Ped. simile*

Solo 8 bars in exam

HEAD continues

12 G7sus D/F# F D/F# G7sus rit. C

mf *f* *mp*

P *Ped. simile*

• RELATED LISTENING: Bill Frisell: "Have a Little Faith" from *Have a Little Faith* [Elektra Nonesuch]

HERE WE GO AGAIN

Michael Garrick

Swing ♩ = 104 Thoughtful

HEAD

4/4 time signature. Key signature: one flat (Bb).

First system (measures 1-4):
 Treble clef: Measure 1 (Dm7, mf, 2), Measure 2 (mf), Measure 3 (3, mp), Measure 4 (mp, 3).
 Bass clef: Measure 1 (mf, 3), Measure 2 (mf), Measure 3 (mf), Measure 4 (mp, 3).

Second system (measures 5-8):
 Treble clef: Measure 5 (Em, 2, mp), Measure 6 (F, 3, mp), Measure 7 (G, 3, f), Measure 8 (Am, 3, f).
 Bass clef: Measure 5 (4, mp), Measure 6 (cresc., f), Measure 7 (mp, 5), Measure 8 (f, 3).
 Chords: Em, F, G, Am, Dm7. Dynamics: mp, cresc., f, mp, f. Ending: Fine.

SOLOS

Dm7

9 measures. Treble clef: Measure 9 (Dm7, 9). Bass clef: Measure 9 (Dm7, 9). Solo section with slurs and ties.

D.C. al Fine

Solo 8 bars in exam.

13 measures. Treble clef: Measure 13 (Dm7, 13). Bass clef: Measure 13 (Dm7, 13). Solo section with slurs and ties.

• RELATED LISTENING: Michael Garrick Trio: 'Song of the Elms' from Parting is Such [JAZZ]

YOKATE

Huw Warren

Straight 8s ♩ = 132 Steady African groove

HEAD

System 1 (Measures 1-4): *p*

System 2 (Measures 5-8): *mp bring out melody*

System 3 (Measures 9-12): *mf*

SOLOS

F/G

13

Solo 8 bars in exam

17

HEAD continues

21 *mf*

G C D E G C A $\flat$ B $\flat$ G C

3

26 *f*

! G C D G C D G

3 1

• RELATED LISTENING: Abdullah Ibrahim: 'African Sun' from African Sun [KAZ]

JAZZ PIANO PIECES GRADE 1

'What good is music if it ain't got that swing?'

Duke Ellington

The Associated Board responds with 'Jazz Piano', a comprehensive introduction to the world of jazz. A pioneering set of publications and a rigorously planned syllabus provide the building blocks you need to play jazz with imagination, understanding and style and to improvise effectively right from the start.

Five books of graded pieces provide a wealth of jazz repertoire for you to play, from the great African-American tradition to the vibrant, dynamic and multi-cultural nature of jazz today. Throughout, there is a huge range of styles: funky rock grooves, up tempo swing tunes, calypsos, a bossa and other latin pieces, jazz waltzes, modal pieces, bebop style, gospel style, a rag, free jazz. There are classic tunes by the jazz greats including Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, Bill Evans and Thelonious Monk. And there are brand-new pieces specially commissioned from professional British jazz pianists and educators, providing an exciting snapshot of the contemporary scene.

Within each album there are 15 pieces presented in three categories – blues, standards and contemporary jazz. Each piece provides a head which contains all the characteristic voicings, phrasing and rhythmic patterns needed for a stylish performance. An improvised section follows, where guideline pitches and left-hand voicings are given as a practical starting point for your own solos. Accessible, student-centred and at the highest musical standards, these pieces will get you playing jazz confidently and creatively.

Pieces, scales, quick studies, CDs, aural tests, how-to book – this set of materials provides a complete progressive method for playing jazz piano from scratch. So 'give that rhythm everything you got!'

JAZZ PIANO TITLES

Jazz Piano Pieces, Grades 1–5 (*one book per grade*)

Jazz Piano Scales, Grades 1–5

Jazz Piano Aural Tests, Grades 1–3, Grades 4–5 (*two books*)

Jazz Piano Quick Studies, Grades 1–5

Jazz Piano: The CD, Grades 1–5 (*one CD per grade*)

Jazz Piano from Scratch: A how-to guide for students and teachers (*book and CD*) Charles Beale

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JAZZ PIANO PIECES GR
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