

Certificate of Achievement

Music Teachers' Association of California Stanislaus County Branch

The Certificate of Achievement Program for the Stanislaus Branch of the Music Teachers' Association of California began in the 1940's. The program gives students specific goals to work for, promotes diligent practice, and helps create an interest and passion for music. In 2012 the program was completely revised to better meet the changing needs of teachers and students. The Certificate of Achievement program, originally named Local Certification, continues as part of our mission to "promote musical culture and the pursuit of excellence in the field of Musical Education."

Overview

The Stanislaus Branch Certificate of Achievement Program examines student skills in three key areas: Music Theory, Music Performance, and Technique. The requirements for each section are described in detail in the following pages. All information and forms are available on the Stanislaus Branch web-site: www.mtacstanislaus.org. Teachers should print or photocopy as many copies as needed. If a teacher does not have access to an Internet connection, a single copy may be requested from the Program Chair.

Teachers may enroll their student(s) in the Certificate of Achievement program by completing the enrollment form(s) and mailing it with the required fees to the Program Chair by the postmark deadline listed in the current handbook. Current fees, deadlines, and mailing addresses are available in the current Stanislaus Branch Handbook. Payment should be a single check from the teacher made payable to "MTAC Stanislaus".

The exams are to be conducted in the teacher's studio during the enrolled academic year. An outside teacher/judge may be used if the individual teacher so desires. Financial consideration to that judge is entirely the responsibility of each individual teacher.

When the students have completed all requirements for their level, the teacher must complete the Examination Report Form. The teacher may find it easier to start the forms before the final examination day and fill in the results as the student progresses. Once all of the teacher's students have completed examination, the teacher must then mail the Examination Report Forms to the Program Chair. Please remember to mail all of your Examination Report Forms together in one package/envelope as this saves work and expenses for the program. The postmark deadline for Examination Report Forms is July 31. Teachers should allow at least two weeks processing time before Certificates are awarded.

Music Theory

Each student is required to pass a music theory examination at their enrolled level with at least a 60 percent score. If a student fails their theory examination, they may take another exam. The retake must be a different test (a different CM year, or a different source).

Teachers may select from a number of different options for their student's theory exam. Any theory exam from the Music Teachers' Association of California Certificate of Merit State Program may be used. Teachers may also use the "Review Test" found at the end of the "Fundamentals of Piano Theory" series by Keith Snell and Martha Ashleigh. The other option is the "Review Test" found at the end of "Basics of Keyboard Theory" by Julie McIntosh Johnson.

The theory examination must be administered as a formal test, without referencing notes or books and without help from the teacher. Of course if a student does not understand a question the teacher may explain the question, however the teacher must not provide the answer. If a student is taking the test found in the back of a book they are not allowed to turn back to previous information in the book. The student may look at a piano keyboard or a visual representation of a piano keyboard. It is also acceptable for a student to use as much scratch paper as they would like. There is no time limit for the theory examination.

Theory tests are taken in studio, or as arranged by the teacher. The teacher will grade each student's theory examination and report the score and test used on the Examination Report Form.

Music Performance

Each student is required to learn musical compositions of appropriate difficulty for their enrolled level. The Certificate of Merit Syllabus should be used as a reference for acceptable repertoire for each level. These pieces are to be performed in the teacher's studio (or other location as arranged by the teacher) on a single examination day. Each piece should be evaluated by the teacher and recorded on the Examination Report Form. Memory requirements are left to the teacher's discretion.

The repertoire requirements for each level are:

- Preparatory: Two pieces, any historical style(s)
- Level One: Two pieces, any historical style(s)
- Level Two: Two pieces, any historical style(s)
- Level Three: Three pieces, representing three different musical styles
- Level Four: Three pieces, representing three different musical styles
- Level Five: Three pieces, representing three different musical styles
- Level Six: Four pieces, representing at least three different musical styles
- Level Seven: Four pieces, representing at least three different musical styles
- Level Eight: Four pieces, representing at least three different musical styles
- Level Nine: Four pieces, representing at least three different musical styles
- Level Ten: Four pieces, representing at least three different musical styles

We recognize and respect differing opinions and classifications for historical periods. Teachers may use the following classifications (or use the current Certificate Of Merit Syllabus):

- Baroque
- Classical
- Romantic
- Impressionist
- 20th and 21st Centuries

Ultimately it is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that the student is receiving training in a variety of musical styles and gaining a practical and theoretical understanding of music history.

As part of their music performance requirement, each student is also required to perform in a Stanislaus Branch workshop. Teachers may schedule an in-studio workshop by following the guidelines in the Stanislaus County Branch handbook.

Technique

Each student is required to master at least a minimum number of technique elements for each level. Teachers are encouraged to require their students to master additional technical elements. These technique elements are not intended to represent all skills beneficial for a student at each level. Teachers should use their knowledge and experience, as well as references such as the Certificate of Merit Syllabus, to guide their students' technical development.

Technique elements may be passed in lessons as the student masters them. The date they complete their final technique element for their assigned level should be recorded on the Examination Report Form. Alternately, teachers may require their students to perform all technical requirements on the day of their performance examination. In that case, the examination day would be the date recorded on the Examination Report Form.

The minimum technical requirements are listed on the Technique Chart.

Results

Students must meet the following criteria to pass their level: (1) Earn an "Acceptable" or higher on all of their repertoire, (2) meet workshop requirement, (3) earn 60% or better on their theory test, and (4) earn an "acceptable" or higher on their technique.

Revisions

The Certificate of Achievement Program will be reviewed on a regular basis. If you have ideas you would like to share, please send them in writing to the Program Chair, and your ideas will be considered in the next revision. Please bear in mind, however, that different teachers may have opposing ideas and the committee must make decisions that will benefit everyone in the best way possible and maintain the integrity of the program.

Examination Report Form

Teacher's Name: _____

Student Name: _____ Level:

Music Performance

1 Composition Title: _____
Composer: _____ Musical Period: _____
Evaluation: (Circle One): Excellent Good Acceptable Needs Work

2 Composition Title: _____
Composer: _____ Musical Period: _____
Evaluation: (Circle One): Excellent Good Acceptable Needs Work

3 Composition Title: _____
Composer: _____ Musical Period: _____
Evaluation: (Circle One): Excellent Good Acceptable Needs Work

4 Composition Title: _____
Composer: _____ Musical Period: _____
Evaluation: (Circle One): Excellent Good Acceptable Needs Work

Date of required MTAC Workshop:

Music Theory

Percentage Score:

Examination Used: _____

Technique

Date required technique completed:

Quality of Technique Elements (circle one): Excellent Good Acceptable Needs Work

Enrollment Form

Teacher's Name: _____

Student Name: _____ Level:

Contact Information

Teacher Mailing Address: name _____

street _____

city, state, zip _____

Apartment / suite. _____

Student Contact Number: _____

Important: Payment must be included with enrollment forms. Payment must be a single check from the teacher made payable to "MTAC Stanislaus"

Technique Chart

Level	Minimum Requirements		
P	5 Finger Patterns: F, C, G, D, A, E Major HT f, c, g, d, a, e minor HT	Scales C, G Major 1 Octave, HS or HT	Chord Progressions I - V - I, HT root position or common tone in C and G Major
1	5 Finger Patterns: B, F#, Db, Ab, Eb, Bb Major b, f#, Db, Ab, Eb, Bb Minor	Scales F, C, G, D Major d, a minor one octave, HT	Chord Progressions Half, Authentic, Plagal Root Position or Common tone in F, C, G, D Major
2	Scales G, D Major 2 octaves d, a, e natural and harmonic minor, 1 octave	Chord Progressions I - IV - I - V(7) - I in G, D Major	Chords G, D Major blocked inversions G, D Maj, Min, Dim, Aug blocked in root
3	Scales A, E, B Major 2 octaves a, e, b, natural and harmonic 2 octaves	Chord Progressions i - iv - i - V(7) - i in a, e, b minor	Chords A, E, a, e blocked inversions Maj, min, dim, Aug on A, E, B root position
4	Scales A, Eb, Bb major 3 octaves c, g natural and harmonic 2 octaves	Chord Progressions I - IV - I - V - V7 - I in A, Eb, Bb Major and c minor	Chords A, Bb Major Primary triads first then secondary, in root position
5	Scales E, Ab, Major 3 Octaves f, c harmonic and melodic Chromatic 1 oct., thumbs on C	Chord Progressions I - IV - ii - V7 - I in E, Ab, Eb Major and f minor	Arpeggio A, Eb Major f, c minor all 2 octaves
6	Scales B, Ab Major 4 octave g#, f harmonic and melodic 3 octaves Chromatic, 2 Octaves start on E	Chords V7 blocked inversions in E, Ab, A Major	Arpeggio E, Ab Major g#, f minor 3 octaves
7	Scales F#, Db Major 4 Octaves d#, Bb harmonic and melodic 3 octaves Whole tone on F# 1 octave	Chords 7th chords root position blocked Major, dominant, minor, half, diminished on B	Arpeggio F#, Db Major d#, Bb minor 4 octaves
8	Scales Db in 3rds, 4 octaves Gb, Db major 4 octaves Eb, Bb melodic 4 octaves	Chord Progressions Modulation to the dominant C to G, G to D, and D to A	Arpeggio all 4 octaves Gb, Bb Major Eb, Bb minor Diminished 7th on B, C#
9	Scales E major in 6ths RH on tonic Ab, Eb A, Major 4 Octaves f#, c# melodic 4 octaves Octave scale on E, 2 octaves	Chord Progression Modulation to the dominant Ab to Eb, Eb to Bb, and Bb to F	Arpeggio V7 in Ab and Eb 4 Octaves Dim 7th on Ab and Eb 4 octaves

Level 10 technical requirement is a memorized etude from the Etude List in the Certificate of Merit Syllabus