

## SYLLABUS

### **Solo Piano Lessons (MUAP 110V, 310V, 510V)**

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#### **Description of the Course**

This is the main course of the piano performance program for the BM and MM of music in piano performance. Students receive comprehensive instruction in the art of piano playing based on methodology and traditions of the great European music institutions. The course entails the systematic development of virtuoso piano technique, a broad exposure to the classical piano repertoire, and the development of artistic and personal expression.

Each piano performance major will have one 60 minutes individual lesson per week. All piano lessons (MUAP 110V, 310V, 510V) are min. 3 credit hour courses. Appropriate repertoire from the standard piano literature is discussed and assigned in the beginning of the semester. A weekly studio class is scheduled. Proficiency in basic music history, theory, and literature is expected. Daily and deliberate practice is paramount.

Relevant pedagogical, artistic, and pianistic information can be found on: [www.PianistToPianist.com](http://www.PianistToPianist.com)

#### **Course Specifications for Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance**

1) In the first year, freshman level, the focus is primarily on building a solid piano technique, establishing a methodical practicing routine of scales and arpeggios, and developing the use of arm weight and finger independence. A printed (Finale or Sibelius) or hand written compendium (on staff paper, min. 8 pages) of scales, arpeggios, and exercises has to be created by the student during the first year.

2) In the second year, sophomore level, technical training continues with more advanced pianistic issues and effective approaches to learning of repertoire will be examined. Each semester a number of pieces will be learned and performed in student recitals. The repertoire should be completely memorized one week before the performance. Missed lessons will be rescheduled if possible. Students cannot get an "A" if the entire repertoire selected for the respective semester is not performed.

At the end of the second year the student will play a ca. 45 minute recital - a proficiency examination (sophomore barrier) to include pieces from four styles to be at least of the level of the [audition requirement repertoire](#) (see below), which will determine whether progress has been satisfactory and, if successful, permit continuation in the 310V course level (see [BM PP course curriculum](#)). If expectation of the sophomore barrier is not met, a re-evaluation of the degree plan and scholarship will be necessary.

Repertoire for sophomore barrier:

- Baroque: a Prelude & Fugue, a Suite or an other work by J.S. Bach (not a transcription), a sonata by Scarlatti
- Classic: a Sonata, Fantasy, Variations, or Rondo by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, or Schubert
- Romantic: a Song without Words by Mendelssohn, a Ballade, Scherzo, or Sonata by Chopin, a Nachtstück or larger cyclical piece by Schumann, a piece from the *Années de Pèlerinage* or any etude by Liszt, an Intermezzo, Variations, or Sonata by Brahms.
- Modern: a Sonata by Prokofiev, a Klavierstück by Schönberg, a Prelude & Fugue by Shostakovich, 4:33 by Cage

3) At the end of the third year a recital of ca. 60 minutes is required (junior recital).

4) At the end of the fourth year a full length evening recital with intermission is required (ca. 75 minutes, senior recital). Program notes or a spoken introduction to the music selection is encouraged. Recital programs should be completely memorized about two weeks before each performance; a play trough of the whole program will be scheduled one week before the resp. performance.

## Course Specifications for Master of Music in Piano Performance

In the first year a recital of ca. 60 minutes length is encouraged. A full-length chamber music recital is required, as well as a full-length graduate recital (75 min.). Recital programs should be completely memorized about two weeks before each performance; a play trough of the whole program will be scheduled one week before the resp. performance. Program notes or a spoken introduction to the music selection is encouraged. A juried comprehensive exam at the end of the second year is required and additionally a 20 to 50 pages essay on a subject of individual choice (with consultation) will be written (see [MM PP course curriculum](#)).

## Recitals

Student recitals have to be scheduled by the student after consultation with the teacher. Posters and programs are the responsibility of the student.

## Juries

Juries are held at the end of the semester. If a student played a degree recital in that semester, a jury is not required. All students not playing a degree or choice recital will play in a studio class recital. If necessary, additional examination will be scheduled.

## Grading

Your final grade will be comprised from the following elements:

The quality of your work during the semester resulting in the performance of the selected repertoire.

Additional factors are: preparation for each individual lesson; attendance at regular individual instruction; attendance at concerts, recitals, and guest artist performances; quality of performance at recitals and juries; the completed compendium of scales, arpeggios, and exercises; amount of the repertoire learned and performed.

Further Information: [www.piano.uark.edu](http://www.piano.uark.edu)

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