

## Piano and Singing Requirements for Music Therapy Application

Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Music Therapy Program at Appalachian State University. The program here has a tradition of offering a stimulating course of study that includes extensive and personalized clinical training and a particularly strong focus on musicianship. We believe that at the heart of music therapy lies the art of music itself.

The Music Therapy program at Appalachian is designed to promote success for the committed student. In the Bachelor of Music Therapy program, there are classes embedded into the curriculum to facilitate the development of basic and functional skills on piano, guitar, voice, and clinical improvisation on a variety of instruments. This reflects our understanding that the development of the music skills necessary for music therapy practice takes time. Because of the accelerated nature of the Music Therapy Equivalency, which may require as few as four academic semesters, there may not be time to acquire basic piano skills and advance to the level of clinical music skills necessary for internship. As such, we require entrants into the Music Therapy Equivalency Program and the Combined Equivalency/Master of Music Therapy degree program to have basic piano skills and to demonstrate those skills by video recording.

Please prepare the following:

- Play one piece on piano that you feel best represents your skills on that instrument
- I-IV-V<sup>7</sup>-I chord progressions, hands together, close position, in all major keys. **The left hand should play the root of each chord in octaves.** Do not pause the video between keys.
- Major scales, hands together, two octaves in three different keys, at least one of which must have flats in the key signature.
- Two simple, familiar songs of your choice, which may be sung with or without accompaniment. It is not necessary that you provide the accompaniment to your song.

Place the camera so that both your hands and your face are in the picture.

These requirements are meant to help streamline the Equivalency process. The Equivalency student will need to apply functional piano skills to music therapy sessions by the beginning of the second semester. Demonstration of the basic skills outlined above will ensure the student's preparation to move directly into development of functional piano skills required for clinical work.

If you are new to the piano, we hope that these requirements do not convince you not to apply to this program. Instead, we suggest that you find a private piano instructor who will work with you on these specific skills. Practicing just fifteen or twenty minutes a day will go a long way toward your preparation for this interview, but more importantly, toward your development as a music therapist. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, either regarding these piano skills or otherwise. I look forward to hearing your music!

Sincerely,

Dr. Cathy McKinney

# Chord Progressions

Choose one of the following patterns and play, transposing all major keys.

Piano

A musical score for piano in 3/4 time. The piece consists of four measures. The first three measures feature a bass line of quarter notes (C2, D2, E2) and a treble line of chords: a triad of C4, E4, G4; a triad of D4, F4, A4; and a dyad of E4, G4. The fourth measure features a bass line of a dotted half note (C2) and a treble line of a dotted half note chord (C4, E4, G4).

Piano

A musical score for piano in 4/4 time. The piece consists of four measures. The first three measures feature a bass line of quarter notes (C2, D2, E2) and a treble line of chords: a triad of C4, E4, G4; a triad of D4, F4, A4; and a triad of E4, G4, B4. The fourth measure features a bass line of a dotted half note (C2) and a treble line of a dotted half note chord (C4, E4, G4).

## MUSIC THERAPY EQUIVALENCY AUDITION VIDEO

- You can record your video with one of the many camcorders, pocket camcorders, or smart phones designed for high quality recording and easy uploading capabilities.
- **Set up the camera angle so that your hands can be seen on the piano and your face can be seen throughout the video.**
- Announce each portion on camera, naming what you are about to do before you play or sing.
- Remember to back up your recording for safekeeping onto a flash drive or other memory device.
- Upload the video to an unlisted YouTube Account. Choosing the setting “unlisted” under privacy settings will ensure that the video will not be found through a search. The instructions are as follows:
  1. Create a YouTube Account, following the [online directions](#).
  2. Log in and click “Upload” at the top of the page.
  3. Drag your movie file into the Video File Upload box
  4. Give the video a title
  5. Under Privacy, check “Unlisted.” (Only those to whom you give the link can view the video.)
  6. Under Sharing Options, copy the URL listed.
  7. Paste the URL for your video into your Music Therapy Admissions Questionnaire.