

## **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> chord progressions, hands together, close position, in keys of C, F, B-flat, A-flat, G, D, A, and E.
- Major scales, hands together, two octaves in three different keys, at least one of which must have flats in the key signature.
- A simple, familiar song of your choice, which may be sung with or without accompaniment. It is not necessary that you provide the accompaniment to your song.

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

# Major Chord Progressions

Select *one* of four forms below and play, transposing in all keys up to four sharps and four flats.

## I-IV-V7-I

Piano

The musical notation for the I-IV-V7-I progression in C major is shown in a grand staff. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The piece consists of two measures, each repeated twice. The first measure contains a C major triad in the right hand and a C major triad in the left hand. The second measure contains an F major triad in the right hand and an F major triad in the left hand. The third measure contains a G7 chord in the right hand and a G7 chord in the left hand. The fourth measure contains a C major triad in the right hand and a C major triad in the left hand. The notation includes repeat signs and a final double bar line.

## I-IV-I-V7-I

Piano

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The musical notation for the I-IV-I-V7-I progression in C major is shown in a grand staff. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The piece consists of two measures, each repeated twice. The first measure contains a C major triad in the right hand and a C major triad in the left hand. The second measure contains an F major triad in the right hand and an F major triad in the left hand. The third measure contains a C major triad in the right hand and a C major triad in the left hand. The fourth measure contains a G7 chord in the right hand and a G7 chord in the left hand. The notation includes repeat signs and a final double bar line.

## **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.
- Announce each portion on camera, naming what you are about to do before you play.
- Remember to back up your recording for safekeeping onto a flash drive, DVD-R, 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.