

# Achievement in Music Examinations (AIM)

## PIANO

### Illinois State Music Teacher Association Exam

#### What are the benefits of taking AIM examinations?

These exams enhance musicianship, develop performance confidence, and can make a significant difference in college application process. Universities give advantage to the students with extensive, relevant and successful track record in extracurricular activities.

AIM exams are demanding and require daily instrument practice and theory study. The goal is for students to have a positive experience and feel rewarded for their dedication and diligent work. Students receive a certificate for successful completion of the theory and the performance exams.

#### Class Structure

Piano Levels 1a, 1b, 1c and 2 can be prepared in a group class. Due to the extensive and complex nature of higher level exams, piano levels 3 and higher are prepared in individual lessons only.

Individual lesson requirements per level: 2-4 = 30 min lesson; 5-8 = 45 min lesson; 9 and up = 1 hr lesson. Combining of levels: 2-3 = 30 min lesson; 3-6 = 45 min lesson; 6-9 = 1 hr lesson; no combining of levels 10, 11, and 12. There can be no combining of more than 2 levels in one academic year.

The rate for group AIM preparation classes is \$21 per class per student. Regular individual lesson rates apply for AIM preparation in individual lessons.

#### Deadlines

Please inform your teacher about your intention to take the exam as soon as possible. Early preparation is the key to good scores. Sign-up deadlines are in the fall. NMA will send e-mails to all piano students to let them know when the sign-up begins.

#### Piano Exam Dates for academic year 2018-2019:

- Levels 1A, 1B, 1C, and level 2: February 3, 2018
- Theory levels 3-12: December 1-2, 2018
- Performance levels 3-12: March 16, 17, 18, 2019

In order to enroll in the performance examination in March, students level 3 and up must successfully complete the theory examination in December.

#### Are there any age limitations?

There is no age limit for piano exams.

#### Who are the NMA teachers participating in AIM exam preparation?

Individual piano lessons: Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Spike, Ms. Hintz, Mr. Hylland, Mr. Wilson, Ms. Maas, Ms. Deshpande, Ms. Pelin.

Group AIM piano classes: Mr. Hylland.

#### How are the exams structured?

AIM examinations are divided by level and content. There are specific technique, theory, and repertoire requirements for each level. Please consult your teacher about the exam level which would be most appropriate for your child.

#### Where are the AIM piano examinations held?

The exams are held in different venues in Naperville. You will receive the location and the exam time information from your teacher, about a week before the exam. You will be able to request a day (if the exam is spread over several days) and the general time of the exam (such as AM or PM), and every effort will be made to accommodate your request.

#### Who adjudicates the examinations?

Members of Music Teacher National Association in our area are the adjudicators at AIM examinations, and they are experienced teachers and adjudicators

#### Are there any extra fees for AIM examinations and materials?

Yes, there is a participation fee of \$25 per student per exam for levels 1 and 2. Students taking exams level 3-12 have a \$20 fee for the theory exam held in December, and a \$20 fee for the performance exam held in March. The fees are due at registration, payable by check made out to NMA or cash. There is additional cost for books needed for exam preparation. Students will be able to purchase the books through NMA.

#### How do I register?

You will be registering with your teacher directly. NMA facilitates the organization of this program and processes the fees, but an individual teacher needs to be a member of MTNA in order to enter the students into the AIM exams. The fees are payable in cash or check written out to NMA.

**Please let us know if we can provide further clarifications.**

*Talk with your teacher at your earliest convenience to set everything up and order the materials.*  
*The sooner you sign up the greater the chance of the student's success at the examinations.*