

Achievement in Music Examinations (AIM)

PIANO

Illinois State Piano Exams

On-Line only for 2020-2021

What are the benefits of taking AIM examinations?

These exams enhance musicianship, develop performance confidence, and **make a significant difference in college application process and employment search.** Now that **many universities have phased out standardized tests,** more focus is placed on the students with extensive and relevant extracurricular activities, especially music. The same is true of the employers They know that music training is demanding, time consuming and requires highly developed cognitive and analytical skills, as well as long term planning. These are valuable skills for demanding college programs or employment.

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. Students can start from any level they are able to pass successfully and can do 2 levels per year with longer lessons and sufficient practice.

Lesson Requirements

Due to the extensive and complex nature of these exams, they can be prepared in individual lessons only.

Individual lesson requirements per level: 2-4 = 30 min lesson; 5-7 = 45 min lesson; 8-10 = 1 hr lesson; 11 = 1hr 15 min lesson; 12 = 1 hr 30 min lesson. Combining multiple levels: 2-3 = 30 min lesson; 3-6 = 45 min lesson; 6-8 = 1 hr lesson; for combining levels 10, 11, and 12 there will be a special **mandatory lesson length requirement.**

Regular individual lesson tuition rates apply.

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 2020-2021:

- Levels 1A, 1B, 1C, and level 2: February 6, 2021
- Theory levels 3-12: December 5, 2020
- Performance levels 3-12: March 14, 2021

In order to enroll in the performance examination in March, students in 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. Pelin, Ms. Hintz, Mr. Kavanaugh, Mr. Hylland, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Castillo, Ms. Eunice, and Dr. Mihelcic.

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 at 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 specific 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. 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 or cash. The fee can be paid by credit card on file and includes an extra \$3 processing charge. There is additional cost for theory workbooks and performance exam books. 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. Please see the fees explanation in the paragraph above.

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.