

# KEYBOARD



**BELONGS TO  
ANGEL'S MUSIC  
ACADEMY**

**SYLLABUS GUIDE**



# INTRODUCTION

## **Welcome to the Comprehensive 1-Year Keyboard Syllabus**

Welcome to the Comprehensive 1-Year Keyboard Syllabus, a meticulously designed guide crafted to support teachers, learners, and candidates in their journey towards keyboard mastery. This syllabus book is your essential resource for a structured and effective learning experience, providing practical information and guidance to navigate through a year of musical development.

Our syllabus offers a detailed month-by-month planner, practical exercises, and a structured approach to achieving proficiency in contemporary keyboard skills. Whether you are a student eager to learn, a teacher guiding students through their musical education, or a candidate preparing for performance and examination, this guide will serve as a valuable tool in your educational journey.

### **Key Features of This Syllabus Guide:**

- **Monthly Planner:** A comprehensive, day-by-day breakdown of topics to be covered each month, ensuring a balanced progression from basic skills to advanced techniques.
- **Practical and Theoretical Content:** Detailed practical exercises and theoretical knowledge are integrated to enhance your learning experience. Each month is designed to build on the previous one, ensuring a cohesive and comprehensive understanding of keyboard music.
- **Monthly Report Card:** A dedicated section for tracking progress and performance. This allows students and teachers to monitor achievements, identify areas for improvement, and set future goals.

### **Additional Resources:**

For further information on the syllabus, additional resources, and support materials, please visit our website:

[www.angelsmusicacademy.com](http://www.angelsmusicacademy.com). Here, you will find detailed guidelines, practice examples, and additional tools to complement your learning experience.

## SONG SELECTION

### Criteria for Selecting Songs

When selecting songs for the course, whether from a provided list or chosen by the student, consider the following criteria:

#### 1. **Appropriate Difficulty Level:**

- **Skill Matching:** The song should match the student's current skill level to ensure they are challenged but not overwhelmed.
- **Technical Requirements:** Ensure the piece has the appropriate technical demands, such as scales and chords, suitable for Grade 1 or higher levels.

#### 2. **Musical Interest:**

- **Student Preference:** Songs that resonate with the student's musical tastes and interests will enhance motivation and engagement.
- **Variety:** Offer a range of genres and styles to expose students to different types of music and help them discover their preferences.

#### 3. **Educational Value:**

- **Learning Objectives:** Choose songs that help achieve specific learning goals, such as improving a particular technique or understanding a musical form.
- **Theory Integration:** Select pieces that integrate music theory concepts being studied, such as modulation, key changes, or specific rhythmic patterns.

#### 4. **Performance Potential:**

- **Expressive Opportunities:** Pieces that allow for expressive playing, dynamics, and articulation help develop interpretative skills.
- **Length and Complexity:** Ensure the piece is of a suitable length and complexity for performance within the course duration.

#### 5. **Technical and Artistic Growth:**

- **Skill Development:** Choose songs that offer opportunities for technical skill development and artistic expression.
- **Challenge:** While not overly difficult, the song should present a challenge that encourages growth and improvement.

## INTRODUCTION

### **6. Variety and Balance:**

- **Styles and Genres:** Include a variety of musical styles and genres to broaden the student's musical experience.
- **Balance:** Balance between more challenging pieces and those that are within the student's comfort zone to maintain motivation and progress.

### **Process for Song Selection**

1. **Song List Review:** Review the provided list of songs and select pieces that align with the above criteria.
2. **Student Choice:** Allow students to choose their own songs, ensuring they meet the difficulty level and educational criteria.
3. **Instructor Guidance:** Provide guidance and approval to ensure chosen songs are appropriate for the student's skill level and learning objectives.
4. **Integration:** Integrate chosen pieces into the student's practice routine, balancing them with other course assignments and objectives.

By following these criteria and processes, the course will ensure that students receive a well-rounded and engaging musical education that supports their development and interests.

## DEBUT - 1-6 MONTHS

### Learning Outcomes

The learner will:

1. Produce a performance that demonstrates a basic foundation on their instrument and shows some interpretation.
2. Perform audibly with a sense of enthusiasm and enjoyment and with some awareness of audience.
3. Demonstrate that the foundations of a secure technique have been established.
4. Demonstrate a range of technical and musical abilities through either a quick study piece or improvisation.

### Assessment Criteria

The learner can:

- 1. Produce a performance that demonstrates a basic foundation on their instrument and shows some interpretation:**
  - 1.1 Perform with adequate continuity and a sense of pulse.
  - 1.2 Perform with some evidence of individual interpretation.
- 2. Perform audibly with a sense of enthusiasm and enjoyment and with some awareness of audience:**
  - 2.1 Demonstrate some sense of performance with some confidence and capacity for audience engagement.
- 3. Demonstrate that the foundations of a secure technique have been established:**
  - 3.1 Demonstrate a generally adequate technique.
  - 3.2 Perform with an adequate basic sound.
- 4. Demonstrate a range of technical and musical abilities through either a quick study piece or improvisation:**
  - 4.1 Respond to a quick study piece with attention to note values and pitches.
  - 4.2 Improvise with some melodic development, some harmonic awareness, and a basic use of instrumental resources relevant to Initial level.

## Learning Outcomes

### The learner will:

1. Produce a performance that demonstrates preparation and the beginnings of interpretation.
2. Perform accurately and be able to create and convey mood to the audience.
3. Show evidence of a basic familiarity with the fundamentals of instrumental/vocal technique.
4. Demonstrate a range of technical and musical abilities through either a quick study piece or improvisation.

### Assessment Criteria

#### The learner can:

- 1. Produce a performance that demonstrates preparation and the beginnings of interpretation:**
  - 1.1 Perform with general continuity and a sense of pulse.
  - 1.2 Perform with a developing feeling of individual interpretation.
- 2. Perform accurately and be able to create and convey mood to the audience:**
  - 2.1 Give a performance that is essentially accurate with general fluency and attention to musical and notational details.
  - 2.2 Demonstrate an overall sense of performance with basic confidence and some capacity for audience engagement.
- 3. Show evidence of a basic familiarity with the fundamentals of instrumental/vocal technique:**
  - 3.1 Demonstrate a generally reliable technique.
  - 3.2 Perform with an adequate basic sound with some evidence of tonal control and projection.
- 4. Demonstrate a range of technical and musical abilities through either a quick study piece or improvisation:**
  - 4.1 Respond to a quick study piece with continuity of pulse and attention to note values and pitches.
  - 4.2 Improvise with some melodic development, harmonic awareness, and use of basic instrumental resources relevant to Grade 1.

## MONTH 1

Week	Weekly Focus	Practice Assignments	Homework Assignments
Week 1	Getting Started with Keyboard	Keyboard layout, finger positioning, basic rhythms	Identify white keys, clap/count rhythms
Week 2	Basic Rhythms and Simple Melodies	Play simple rhythms and melodies with one hand	Practice C Major scale and chord
Week 3	Introduction to Scales	Practice C Major scale (hands separately and together)	Play and review C Major scale and chord
Week 4	Introduction to Chords and Song Practice	Practice Song	Practice Songs & Chords

## MONTH 2

Week	Weekly Focus	Practice Assignments	Homework Assignments
Week 5	Minor Scales and Chords	Practice A Natural Minor scale and chord	Practice A Natural Minor scale and chord
Week 6	Intermediate Practice	Review C Major and A Minor scales and chords; broken chords	Practice broken chords and arpeggios
Week 7	Song Practice and Application	Apply scales and chords to Song	Review song
Week 8	Integration and Review	Practice all material – scales, chords, songs	Integrate all learned material

## MONTH 3

Week	Weekly Focus	Practice Assignments	Homework Assignments
Week 9	Introduction to Arpeggios	Practice C Major broken chord	Practice C Major broken chord
Week 10	Basic Sight Reading	Practice sight-reading a 4-bar melody	Practice sight-reading exercises
Week 11	Combining Skills	Review arpeggios and sight-reading; integrate skills	Practice integrating skills
Week 12	Song Practice and Integration	Apply skills to any song from the list	Review the song

## MONTH 4

Week	Weekly Focus	Practice Assignments	Homework Assignments
Week 13	Introduction to Improvisation	Practice improvising over C Major and A Minor chord progressions	Practice improvisation over chord progressions
Week 14	Expanding Techniques	Combine scales with improvisation; practice advanced techniques	Integrate advanced techniques into practice
Week 15	Review and Expansion	Review all material; focus on combining techniques	Refine all learned material
Week 16	Song Review and Integration	Review and refine both the songs	Practice all songs; integrate techniques



## MONTH 5

Week	Weekly Focus	Practice Assignments	Homework Assignments
Week 17	Advanced Chord Voicings	Practice advanced chord voicings	Practice advanced chord voicings
Week 18	Performance Techniques	Apply performance any new song of your choice	Refine performance techniques
Week 19	Comprehensive Review	Review all technical exercises and performance pieces	Practice and review all learned material
Week 20	Final Preparations	Full performance run-through; final adjustments	Prepare for final performance

## MONTH 6

Week	Weekly Focus	Practice Assignments	Homework Assignments
Week 21	Final Review	Review all scales, arpeggios, chords, sight-reading, and improvisation	Finalize preparation for performance
Week 22	Performance Preparation	Final practice session; focus on confidence and presentation	Review and polish final performance
Week 23	Final Performance	Perform all songs and technical exercises	Final performance and evaluation
Week 24	Certification	Receive feedback and certificate	Reflect on progress and set future goals

## MONTH 7

Week	Weekly Focus	Practical Assignment	Homework Assignment
Week 1	Exploring Different Styles	- Play pieces in various styles (e.g., classical, pop). - Experiment with stylistic interpretation.	- Listen to and analyze different styles of music. - Choose one style and research its characteristics.
Week 2	F Major Scale and Chords	- Practice F major scale and chords. - Integrate them into Grade 1 pieces.	- Complete scale and chord exercises in F major. - Practice a piece that uses F major chords.
Week 3	Complex Rhythms and Time Signatures	- Practice Grade 1 pieces with varied time signatures and rhythmic patterns.	- Work on rhythm exercises in different time signatures. - Identify and practice complex rhythms in pieces.
Week 4	Piece Work	- Refine Grade 1 repertoire. - Focus on technical and expressive aspects.	- Practice selected Grade 1 pieces. - Prepare to perform one piece for review.

## MONTH 8

Week	Weekly Focus	Practical Assignment	Homework Assignment
Week 1	Music Theory: Form and Structure	- Study and identify musical forms in Grade 1 pieces. - Create simple phrases or compositions in these forms.	- Analyze the form of a piece studied in class. - Compose a short piece using binary or ternary form.
Week 2	Intermediate Improvisation	- Improvise melodies with common chord progressions. - Experiment with different scales.	- Record an improvisation session. - Write a brief reflection on improvisation challenges and successes.
Week 3	Piece Work	- Continue refining Grade 1 pieces. - Focus on technical details and expression.	- Practice and polish Grade 1 pieces. - Prepare a piece for class performance.
Week 4	Introduction to B ♭ Major	- Practice B ♭ major scale and chords. - Apply B ♭ major in exercises and pieces.	- Complete scale and chord exercises in B ♭ major. - Find or compose a piece in B ♭ major and practice it.

## MONTH 09

Week	Weekly Focus	Practical Assignment	Homework Assignment
Week 1	Collaborative Playing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participate in ensemble or duet sessions.</li> <li>- Develop timing and blending skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepare for an ensemble or duet performance.</li> <li>- Reflect on the collaborative playing experience.</li> </ul>
Week 2	Review and Consolidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review Grade 1 skills and pieces.</li> <li>- Address any technical or interpretative challenges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete a review of all Grade 1 pieces.</li> <li>- Focus on areas that need improvement based on self-assessment.</li> </ul>
Week 3	Mock Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepare and present a Grade 1 piece in a mock performance setting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rehearse and refine the selected piece for the mock performance.</li> <li>- Write a reflection on the performance experience.</li> </ul>
Week 4	Mini Recital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Perform one or two Grade 1 pieces in a mini recital.</li> <li>- Focus on presentation and expression.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepare for the mini recital.</li> <li>- Reflect on performance and practice areas of improvement.</li> </ul>

## MONTH 10

Week	Weekly Focus	Practical Assignment	Homework Assignment
Week 1	Advanced Articulation and Dynamics	- Practice advanced articulation techniques (e.g., staccato, legato). - Use varied dynamics in Grade 1 pieces.	- Complete articulation and dynamics exercises. - Apply techniques to practice pieces and record progress.
Week 2	C Major and A Minor Review	- Review C major and A minor scales and chords. - Integrate them into exercises and pieces.	- Complete review exercises for C major and A minor. - Practice pieces incorporating these keys.
Week 3	Harmonic Analysis	- Analyze harmonic structures in Grade 1 pieces. - Apply knowledge to practice and interpret pieces.	- Analyze the harmony of a selected Grade 1 piece. - Write a brief report on the harmonic analysis.
Week 4	Piece Work	- Continue refining Grade 1 pieces. - Focus on technical and musical details.	- Practice and polish Grade 1 pieces. - Prepare for upcoming performance assessments.

## MONTH 11

Week	Weekly Focus	Practical Assignment	Homework Assignment
Week 1	Music Theory: Modulation and Keys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Study and practice modulation between keys.</li> <li>- Apply modulation techniques in exercises.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete exercises involving modulation between keys.</li> <li>- Practice pieces that include modulations.</li> </ul>
Week 2	Advanced Improvisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improvise with complex structures and extended chord progressions.</li> <li>- Use various scales and modes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Record an advanced improvisation session.</li> <li>- Reflect on improvisation techniques and progress.</li> </ul>
Week 3	Piece Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Refine Grade 1 pieces with emphasis on technical precision and expression.</li> <li>- Prepare pieces for performance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Practice and polish Grade 1 repertoire.</li> <li>- Prepare for upcoming mock performance.</li> </ul>
Week 4	Introduction to G Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Study G minor scale and chords.</li> <li>- Practice pieces and exercises in G minor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete exercises in G minor.</li> <li>- Find or compose a piece in G minor and practice it.</li> </ul>

## MONTH 12

Week	Weekly Focus	Practical Assignment	Homework Assignment
Week 1	Ensemble Performance	- Perform with an ensemble or group. - Focus on coordination and interaction.	- Prepare for ensemble performance. - Reflect on the ensemble experience and provide feedback.
Week 2	Review and Consolidation	- Review and reinforce all concepts and skills learned throughout the course. - Address any remaining challenges.	- Conduct a self-assessment of progress. - Complete a final review of all Grade 1 pieces.
Week 3	Mock Performance and Feedback	- Perform a Grade 1 piece in a mock performance. - Receive and reflect on feedback.	- Prepare for mock performance. - Write a reflection on feedback received and areas for improvement.
Week 4	Final Recital	- Perform selected Grade 1 pieces in a final recital. - Focus on presentation and expression.	- Rehearse extensively for the final recital. - Reflect on overall progress and course experience.

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