

The Jazz Piano and Jazz Ensembles Syllabus sets out in detail the requirements of the exams, especially those for scales, aural tests and the quick study. It also contains the assessment criteria. The syllabus is obtainable from music dealers or from The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, 14 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3JG (please send a stamped addressed C5 envelope).

Scales and Arpeggios

To be played from memory, straight or swing as directed by the examiner.

SCALES: with each hand separately in the following forms:

Dorian on D; Mixolydian on G; C major (two octaves)

Major pentatonic on C; $\flat 3$ pentatonic on G (five notes)

ARPEGGIOS: the common chords of G major and D minor, in root position only, with each hand separately (one octave).

Three Pieces

One chosen by the candidate from each of the three lists: Blues, Standards and Contemporary Jazz.

HEAD. On the first playing the fully notated head should be closely followed, but it may also be interpreted more flexibly, with variation in details of melody, rhythm, voicing, phrasing, etc., provided the result is coherent, stylish, musical and does not alter the technical level.

SOLO. The guideline right-hand pitches and left-hand part are given solely as a starting-point and to indicate the style. It is expected that candidates will expand upon the given musical materials as their experience allows, also using other pitches, voicings and figurations.

AFTER THE SOLO(S). Everything after the solo(s) may be embellished in a number of ways, from a few simple additions or variations to a more extensive reworking. Exact repetition should be avoided, so as to achieve a more interesting result.

At Grade 1 such embellishment might mean making small melodic or rhythmic changes or varying dynamics or phrasing. At Grade 3 players might change the octaves at which material is played, introduce fills or revoice chords. At Grade 5 harmony may be varied or enriched with extensions, melodic lines may be thickened or ornamented, and rhythms and phrasing reinterpreted. Or none of the above and a completely different set of embellishments! Players have a range of options at all grades and may offer any musical embellishments in keeping with the style.

RELATED LISTENING. Every effort was made to ensure that the CDs listed at the foot of each piece were available at the time of going to press. However, jazz recordings regularly go in and out of print, and if the one cited has now been deleted look for a compilation album by the same artist on the same record label, or buy a related album by the same musician or band.

Quick Study

To play a two-bar passage for one hand only and improvise a two-bar continuation (see the syllabus for full details). The quick study may be played at sight or by ear.

Aural Tests

See the syllabus for full details of the aural tests for the grade.

The volumes of pieces and scales are published by the Board, together with books of sample quick studies and aural tests and a range of other support materials. Full details are given on the back cover of this volume.

NOTE: the Jazz Piano exams will initially be available only in the UK.

JAZZ PIANO PIECES GRADE 1

Edited by Charles Beale

Blues

- 1 RICHARD MICHAEL
Bedford Square Blues 2
- 2 CHARLES MINGUS, *arr. Nikki Iles*
O, Lord, Please don't let them drop that Atomic Bomb on me 4
- 3 MILT JACKSON, *arr. Richard Michael*
Bag's Groove 6
- 4 SIMON WHITESIDE
Slinky Thing 8
- 5 PHIL PESKETT
Prove you Groove 10

Standards

- 1 JUAN TIZOL, *arr. Richard Michael*
Perdido 12
- 2 FRANK LOESSER, *arr. Nikki Iles*
Inchworm 14
- 3 MILES DAVIS, *arr. Charles Beale*
Jean Pierre 16
- 4 NAT ADDERLEY & CURTIS R. LEWIS, *arr. Phil Peskett*
(Old Man from) The Old Country 18
- 5 BILLY AUSTIN & LOUIS JORDAN, *arr. Eddie Harvey*
Is you is, or Is you ain't (ma' Baby)? 20

Contemporary Jazz

- 1 NIKKI ILES
Bottle Junction 22
- 2 EDDIE HARVEY
Blue Autumn 23
- 3 PHIL PESKETT
He is sadly melting 24
- 4 MICHAEL GARRICK
Here we go again 25
- 5 HUW WARREN
Yokate 26

A CD for Grade 1 is available containing recordings of all the pieces for the grade, together with examples of aural tests, quick studies and scales. Three of the pieces, 'Bag's Groove', 'Perdido' and 'Yokate', are also presented on the CD in 'minus one' versions, for you to play along with bass and drums.
