

LEVEL 1A – Beginner

Choose 4 studies focusing on the following technical skills listed below. To pass level 1A and move to level 1B, you must complete a study for all listed skills:

1. Scale based study emphasizing the right hand
2. Scale based study emphasizing the left hand
3. Arpeggio based study
4. Mixed technique study, i.e. staccato, skips, playing both hands together, etc.

Suggested studies: Studies from Russian School of Music, Volume 1 part 2

LEVEL 1B – Beginner II

Choose 4 studies focusing on the following technical skills listed below. To pass level 1B and move to level 2A Advanced Beginner, you must complete a study for all listed skills:

1. Scale based study emphasizing the right hand
2. Scale based study emphasizing the left hand
3. Arpeggio based study
4. Mixed technique study, i.e. staccato, skips, playing both hands together, etc.

Suggested studies: Studies from Russian School of Music, Volume 2.

LEVEL 2 – Advanced Beginner

Choose 2 studies focusing on the following technique skills. To pass level 2 and move to level 3A, you must complete a study for all listed skills:

1. Scale based study emphasizing the right hand
2. Scale based study emphasizing the left hand
3. Arpeggio based study
4. Mixed technique study, such as thirds, repetitions, chords, specific patterns etc.

Suggested studies: 4 studies from Czerny-Germer, Book 1, #1-50, or equivalent

LEVEL 3A – Intermediate

Choose 2 studies focusing on the following technique skills. To pass level 3A and move to level 3B, you must complete a study for all listed skills:

1. Scale based study emphasizing the right hand
2. Scale based study emphasizing the left hand
3. Arpeggio based study
4. Mixed technique study, such as thirds, repetitions, chords, specific patterns etc.

Suggested studies: 2 studies from Czerny-Germer, Book 2, #1-32, or equivalent

LEVEL 3B - Intermediate II

Choose 2 studies or etudes focusing on the following technique skills. To pass level 3A and move to level 3B Advanced Intermediate, you must complete a study for all listed skills:

1. Scale based study
2. Arpeggio based study
3. Mixed technique: thirds based study/or large chords, turns, repetitions, jumps, etc
4. Octave based study, or another mixed technique, if the hand is too small for octaves

Suggested studies: 2 studies from Czerny Op. 299 Book 1, #1-10, or equivalent

LEVEL 3C – Intermediate III

Choose 2 studies or etude focusing on the following technique skills. To pass level 3C and move to level 4 you must complete a study for all listed skills:

1. Scale based study
2. Arpeggio based study

3. Mixed technique: thirds based study/or large chords, turns, repetitions, jumps, etc
4. Octave based study, or another mixed technique, if the hand is too small for octaves

Suggested studies: 2 studies from Czerny Op. 299, Books 2-4, #11-40; Liszt Twelve Etudes Op.1, or equivalent

LEVEL 4A – Advanced

2 studies from the two suggested composers must be performed to pass level 4A and move to level 4B

1. Scale based study
2. Arpeggio based study
3. Mixed technique: thirds based study/or large chords, turns, repetitions, jumps, etc
4. Octave based study, or another mixed technique, if the hand is too small for octaves

Suggested studies: Czerny 740 (larger etudes), or equivalent

LEVEL 4B – Advanced

2 studies from the two suggested composers must be performed to pass level 4B and move to level 5

1. Scale based study
2. Arpeggio based study
3. Mixed technique: thirds based study/or large chords, turns, repetitions, jumps, etc
4. Octave based study, or another mixed technique, if the hand is too small for octaves

Suggested studies: Moszkowski (12 virtuosic etudes) or Chopin Op. 25, Nos. 1, 2, or 7, or Trois Nouvelles Etudes (#25, 26, 27), or equivalent

LEVEL 5 – Artist

3 etudes from two or three of the suggested composers must be performed with emotional expressive texture, with the melody interwoven through the technical elements to pass level V and move to level VI

Chopin from Op 10 No 5, 9, 10, 11., Op 25 Nos. 5, 9.

Liszt Transcendental Etudes No. 1

Rachmaninov Études-Tableaux Op. 33 2nd edition: No. 2 in A minor, No. 5 in D minor, No. 8 in G minor

LEVEL 6 – Professional

2 etudes from the following composers must be performed to complete the Nelly Berman School of Music "Technique Skills Building Program":

Chopin Etudes Op. 10 and 25, excluding Etudes listed in Level 5

Liszt Three Concert Etudes, Transcendental Etudes 2-12

Rachmaninov Virtuoso Etudes from Op 33 (excluding Etudes listed in level 5) & Op. 39.

Scriabin Virtuoso Etudes

Prokofiev Three Etudes

Stravinsky Etudes

Ligeti Etudes

Kapustin Etudes

All students, regardless of level, will be acknowledged for their participation on our website's Studies and Scales Competition page.

Students who completed a level in one submission will have their accomplishment recognized on the competition web page and also receive an online Certificate of Achievement. Students who submitted more than 4 etudes at once will have their accomplishment recognized on the competition web page and receive an online Certificate of Achievement. Platinum, Gold, and Silver+ winners will be featured on our YouTube channel.

Students who receive "Needs To Resubmit" can re-submit at performance class within 4 weeks. Any student who wishes to improve their technique can also learn and upload a video of them playing any new scales or studies of the same level at any of our weekly Saturday Performance Classes, in between rounds of the Competition.