

	Department of Music MUA1043 Piano Proficiency Skills 1 Unit
Fall 2025	

Meeting days: Tu-Th	Dr. Victor Labenske
Meeting times: 2:55-3:50 PM	Phone (cell): 619-602-1690
Meeting location: CM011	E-mail: vlabensk@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Th 12/18 4:30-7:00 PM	Office location and hours: CMC 214
	M 3:30-4 Tu 9:30-10, 11-11:30, 1:30-2 W 10:45-11, 2-2:30 Th 9:30-10, 11-11:30, 1:30-2; 3:30-4, Tea@4 F 10:45-11 We might also arrange to meet over lunch (Tu, Th, F)

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Class instruction in piano. Emphasizes harmonization, hymn reading, solo and congregational style hymn playing and rudimentary melodic improvisation. Appropriate for music majors preparing for piano proficiency examination. May be repeated.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester, you should be able to pass at least 3 parts of the proficiency exam:

- improvisation
- folk song
- hymn sight reading
- sonatina or invention
- prepared hymn
- patriotic song

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOME

This course prepares students to meet one of the department PLOs: Students who complete the program will be able to demonstrate essential competencies in musicianship skills in Written Theory, Aural skills and Keyboard Musicianship.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

- eNovative Piano (www.enovativepiano.com)
- Canvas (your normal login)
- Canvas Music Department Page (Piano Proficiency Module):
<https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/40730>

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Course schedule information is on Canvas.

Piano Proficiency Exam: Monday of finals week

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assignment distribution by percentage:

- 15% = improvisation (10% = Proficiency Exam; 5% = all other drills)
- 15% = folk song (10% = Proficiency Exam; 5% = all other drills)
- 15% = hymn sight reading (10% = Proficiency Exam; 5% = all other drills)
- 15% = pre-sonatina and sonatina repertoire pieces (10% = Proficiency Exam; 5% = all other drills)
- 15% = congregational style hymn (10% = Proficiency Exam; 5% = all other drills)
- 15% = patriotic song (10% = Proficiency Exam; 5% = all other drills)
- 10% = class preparation and participation*. Student grades usually will be posted in the Canvas grade book by the next class period. It is important to read the comments posted in the grade book as these comments are intended to help students improve their work. Final grades will be posted within one week of the end of the class. Students earn up to 5 discussion points for attendance at each class session in Canvas; points will be subtracted for distractions including phone visible during class.
- All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Quizzes will not be made up. Late work, should it be accepted, will lose 10% per calendar day.

Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages				
A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59

Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages

A	B	C	D	F
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Grading rubric for exams

Improvisation	Folk Song	Hymn Sightreading	Prepared Solo Piece	Congregational Hymn	Patriotic Song
Accurately plays exam-level improvisation examples at a moderate tempo with 1 week of preparation.	Accurately sightreads folk song at a moderate tempo adding appropriate I, IV and V chords	Sightreads hymn accurately at a moderate tempo.	Plays sonatina or invention accurately at an appropriate tempo.	Plays congregational-style hymn accurately at a moderate tempo	Plays patriotic song accurately at a moderate tempo
Accurately plays exam-level improvisation examples at a slow tempo with 1 week of preparation.	Accurately sightreads folk song at a slow tempo adding appropriate I, IV and V chords	Accurately sightreads hymn at a slow tempo	Plays sonatina or invention accurately but under tempo.	Plays congregational-style hymn accurately at a slow tempo	Plays patriotic song accurately at a slow tempo
Plays exam-level improvisation examples at a slow tempo and/or with a small number of errors and with 1 week of preparation.	Sightreads folk song at a slow tempo adding appropriate I, IV and V chords. A small number of errors is present in notereading, rhythm and/or chord choices	Sightreads hymn at a slow tempo and/or with a small number of errors	Plays sonatina or invention under tempo and/or with a small number of errors	Plays congregational-style hymn accurately at a slow tempo and/or with a small number of errors	Plays patriotic song accurately and at a slow tempo and/or with a small number of errors
Plays exam-level improvisation examples at a very slow tempo and/or with a significant number of errors and with 1 week of preparation.	Sightreads folk song at a slow tempo adding appropriate I, IV and V chords. A significant number of errors is present in notereading, rhythm and/or chord choices	Sightreads hymn at a slow tempo and/or with a significant number of errors	Plays sonatina or invention under tempo and/or with a significant number of errors	Plays congregational-style hymn accurately at a slow tempo and/or with a significant number of errors	Plays patriotic song accurately and at a slow tempo and/or with a significant number of errors
Inaccurately plays exam-level improvisation examples with 1 week of preparation; tempo is erratic; numerous errors.	Inaccurately sightreads folk song. Numerous errors in notereading, rhythm and/or chord choices are present OR No Finale Folk Song	Inaccurately sightreads hymn	Inaccurately plays sonatina or invention OR Selects inappropriate repertoire	Inaccurately plays congregational-style hymn OR Selects inappropriate hymn or style	Inaccurately plays patriotic song OR Selects inappropriate song

Class Preparation: You are expected to practice for a minimum of 40 minutes per day (4 hours per week). I'll collect practice records each week to help you keep accountable. Your recorded practice time recorded should include time spent playing the piano (for class assignments). It shouldn't include class time or time spent at the piano not directly related to this course. It is likely that some of you will require more practice than others in order to be adequately prepared for each class. Cramming for piano is impossible since it requires constant skill development. It is your daily commitment to achieving this goal which will result in success. Class sessions earn 5 points per day for attendance; fewer points may be earned if students are not fully engaged (phones out, trips to the bathroom, work for other classes, etc.).

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will lose 10% for each calendar day late. They will not be accepted after the class meeting following the due date. This type of regularity allows the students to receive prompt feedback.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) is not permitted for creating any kind of recording which represents that you are playing when you are not, and use of these tools will be treated as plagiarism.

SPIRITUAL CARE

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](#).

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.]

PLNU RECORDING NOTIFICATION

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

LANGUAGE AND BELONGING

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND DISCRIMINATION

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/Title-IX.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

Note: The information below must be included under the “PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy” Section if you are teaching an Online or Hybrid course.

LOMA WRITING CENTER

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you’re in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](#) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

- [Appointment Calendar](#)
- [Website](#)
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu

LOMABOOKS INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS

Note: For courses using materials available through Lomabooks

For both digital and print materials, please add these student instructions to your syllabus and Canvas Course. Prior to the start of class, the PLNU Bookstore will also be sharing student instructions in a standalone email on how to access their content.

*This course is part of our course material delivery program, **LomaBooks**. The bookstore will provide each student with a convenient package containing all required physical materials; all digitally delivered materials will be integrated into Canvas.*

You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming the list of materials that will be provided for each of your courses and asking you to select how you would like to receive any printed components (in-store pick up or home delivery). If you have not done so already, please confirm your fulfillment preference so the bookstore can prepare your materials.

*For more information about **LomaBooks**, please go: [HERE](#)*