



Thespian Progression Levels
Piano

ABOUT THE THESPIAN PROGRESSION LEVELS APPROACH

The **aim** of the system is to ensure that the students in our Group Sessions are progressing throughout their time with us. The progression levels will almost act like a scheme of work which will help to ensure that each branch is following a similar standard ensuring quality and progression is equal across all branches. The progression levels will eventually coincide with the requirements of an official grading board for the Performing Arts Discipline.

There are 8 progression levels for each discipline which will increase in complexity:

Level One -	A
Level Two -	C
Level Three -	H
Level Four -	I
Level Five -	E
Level Six -	V
Level Seven -	E
Level Eight -	D

As per our slogan, 'You **believed** it, together we **achieved** it!', when members first join our company they **believed** - they believed they could become a performer, they could learn their chosen discipline to the best of their ability, they could meet with other people with similar interests and enjoy their learning. By the end of their time with us, they will have **achieved** what they set out to.

LEVEL ONE - A

This Level is designed for our beginners who have only just joined the organisation. Even if members have previous experience, we have to start at this level to ensure we cover any gaps from their previous studies.

To complete Level One in Piano, students must:

1. Perform in front of an audience.
2. Be able to recognise all notes on the treble clef stave.
This includes all five lines EGBDF and the four space FACE. Students should be able to read notation quickly and confidently.
3. Be able to play a five finger right hand piece in C major hand position.
Lightly Row is a good example of a piece that would fit this criteria.
4. Be able to confidently identify middle C on the keyboard.
This should be independent with no assistance.
5. Be able to identify a crotchet, minim and semibreve and their note values.
6. Demonstrate professional and personal skills
Include; wearing the correct uniform, practising away from sessions, be punctual, demonstrate respect and kindness, be able to show teamwork

LEVEL TWO - AC

This Level is designed for our students who have now proven they know the very basics of Piano. They are now ready to dive deeper into learning.

To complete Level Two in Piano, students must:

1. Be able to identify a quaver and it's note value
2. Be able to explain what a dot is and how it affects the value of a note.
3. Be able to read the entirety of the Bass Clef Stave.
This includes all five lines GBDF A and the four spaces ACEG.
4. Perform a piece which uses both left hand and right hand playing at separate times.
5. Understand what a time signature is and it's importance in music.
Looking at simple time signatures such as 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4.

LEVEL THREE- ACH

This Level is designed for our students who have now become very good beginner musicians. They are now ready to become an awesome Pianist who really understands theory.

To complete Level Three in Piano, students must:

1. Perform a piece with melody in the right hand and a simple accompaniment in the left.
2. Understand what a flat, sharp and natural is and where to find them on the keyboard.
This includes enharmonic equivalents.

3. Identify semiquavers and their note value.

4. Play a piece that incorporates a swung rhythm.
Students should be able to clap this rhythm (long short long short) as well as play it on the piano.

5. Play a C major triad and understand how it is made up of the tonic, 3rd and 5th of the scale.

6. Identify rest beats and their values.
Rests including crotchet, minim, semibreve, quaver, semiquaver as well as dotted rests.

LEVEL FOUR- ACH

Now Level three was tough, but this level really takes you to an intermediate pianist who should be considering looking at official piano grading.

To complete Level Four in Piano, students must:

1. Perform a piece in which the performer plays in more than one hand position.
2. Read and clap a given rhythm to a pulse independently.
3. Learn about key signatures and how they affect a piece.
4. Be able to play a C major scale (one octave, hands separately)
5. Be able to play G and F major triads.
6. Identify dynamics such as forte, piano, mf and mp.
7. Be able to identify the relative minor or major of any key.

LEVEL FIVE- ACHIE

Level Five aims to really strengthen your theoretical understanding. This learning will help you with not only Piano, but Music in general.

To complete Level Five in Piano, students must:

1. Play a piece of initial grade standard. e.g Swans and Ducks
2. Be able to accompany a singer by playing chords from a lead sheet.
3. Identify the key signature of C, G, F and D major.
4. Play A, D and E minor scales.
5. Perform a duet with another pianist.
6. Understand the construction of Major Scales and Major Keys. E.g Tone, Tone, Semitone, Tone, Tone, Semitone and Major, Minor, Minor, Major, Major, Minor, Diminished.

LEVEL SIX- ACHIEV

By this point you are already a fantastic musician with a lot of knowledge. Remember to go over your previous learnings though to ensure you are ready to learn this next level. Level Six, Seven and Eight will require you to really have understood and remembered your previous levels.

To complete Level Six in Piano, students must:

1. Understand the difference between a harmonic and a melodic minor scale and how they are constructed.
2. Understand the circle of fifths and the circle of fourths.
3. Be able to identify the flats and sharps of key signatures up to five flats or sharps as well as their relative minor.
4. Perform a duet or trio with someone singing or playing a different instrument.
5. Identify different time signatures and be able to play in compound time confidently.

LEVEL SEVEN- ACHIEVE

There are only 4 items on this level, which means one thing... IT IS TRICKY! Stick with it as you are now becoming a really good musician who is ready to look at performing more and taking a deeper dive into theory and music history.

To complete Level Seven in Piano, students must:

1. Perform a piece of grade one standard.
2. Learn and understand Intervals including diminished, major, minor, perforce and augmented.
3. Compose their own short piano piece. (16 bars minimum)
4. Be able to name three different composers and talk about their music historical background.

LEVEL EIGHT- ACHIEVED

At this point, you really should have considered doing official grading. Speak to your tutor to arrange this if you have not already. You could now consider next steps, maybe you continue with grading, start tutoring others, or look to join a band.

To complete Level Eight in Piano, students must:

1. Play an improvised solo over an accompaniment given.
2. Understand 7th chords and be able to play some examples independently.
3. Learn about cadences (perfect, imperfect, plagal and interrupted) and identify cadences in their pieces.
4. Play in a band.

To include Drummer, Guitarist, Keyboard as minimum

YOU HAVE **ACHIEVED** IT

Congratulations! You are now a Level 8 Thespian Student specialised in Piano.

Thank you for working so hard during lessons. You should be really proud of your achievements. This has been incredibly challenging but your work has paid off.

You are an asset to not only our Piano Group but to Thespian Arts.