

SUMMER 2018 OLYMPIC PIANO CHALLENGES

Bronze medals are worth one point, silver are worth two, and gold are worth three (bonus points may be awarded if a student goes above the gold level minimum). The Student to win the greatest value of medals will win a prize!

THE ON-YOUR-OWN CHALLENGE

Learn repertoire pieces below your usual playing level on your own with accurate notes, rhythm, fingering, articulation, and dynamics and also use principles of phrasing, expression, and artistry that you have learned in lessons.

Bronze= 1 piece **Silver**=2 pieces **Gold**= 3+ pieces

THE STYLES CHALLENGE

Learn repertoire pieces in contrasting moods and styles. This could include standard repertoire from different eras of music history, jazz, pop, movie music, or pieces that simply have contrasting moods, tempi, and textures. Be able to describe a few key features of each piece and how they affect the expressive intent of the piece or correlate to the piece's historical background or genre. You must learn at least two pieces for this challenge.

Bronze= 2 contrasting pairs **Silver**= 3 contrasting pairs **Gold**= 4+ contrasting pairs

TECHNIQUE

TECHNIQUE BOOK/ ELEMENTARY TECHNIQUE: Master exercises assigned by your teacher.

SCALES:

THE KEY CHALLENGE: learn all major and harmonic minor scales from memory one octave hands together.

THE TEMPO CHALLENGE: focus on a few keys and work on maintaining accuracy and tone while gradually increasing the tempo.

Bronze= 2 exercises, 4 keys, or 2 scales at goal tempo **Silver**= 4 exercises, 8 keys, or 4 scales at goal tempo **Gold**= 6+ exercises, 10+ keys, or 6+ scales at goal tempo

THE SIGHT-READING CHALLENGE: Read through five examples a week and be able to pass accuracy test in your lesson.

Bronze= 1-2 weeks **Silver**= 3-4 weeks **Gold**= 5+ weeks

THE RHYTHM CHALLENGE: Master assigned rhythms by completing the following steps or by performing scales with rhythmic twists:

- Perform while demonstrating the pulse with another body part (e. g. clap rhythm while marching the beat)
- Perform at a very slow tempo and at a very fast tempo
- Perform from memory
- Perform on a simple melody you make up with a five-finger pattern

Bronze= 3 rhythmic twists or 1 rhythm with the above steps **Silver**= 6 rhythmic twists or 2 rhythms with the above steps **Gold**= 7+ rhythmic twists or 3+ rhythms

THE COMPOSITION/ IMPROVISATION/ HARMONIZATION CHALLENGE: Compose a piece, make up a short improvisation or create an accompaniment for an existing melody. Ask your teacher for specific guidelines.

Bronze= 1 project **Silver**= 2 projects **Gold**= 3+ projects

THE THEORY CHALLENGE: based on completion of pages; set a goal with your teacher
Bronze, Silver, Gold—dependent on individual assignments

THE HISTORY CHALLENGE: research a composer and listen to at least three of his compositions. Present your findings either in conversation or in writing to your teacher. Your teacher is happy to provide you resources to make this as easy and fun (but still educational) as possible 😊

Bronze= 1 composer **Silver**= 2 composers **Gold**= 3+ composers

THE LISTENING CHALLENGE: listen to assigned recording(s) and fill out a worksheet as you listen.

Bronze= 1 worksheet **Silver**= 2 worksheets **Gold**= 3+ worksheets

