

Keyboard Gymnastics of Phoenix™

Keyboard Gymnastics is an achievement program for piano students, beginning to advanced. Students are tested in seven areas of study: Theory, Ear-training, Technic, Sight-reading, Performance, Ensemble, and Creative Project. Ten levels of study are included in all areas except Performance, Ensemble and Creative Project (which are subjective). Students are entered at their individual level in each area, not one level across the board.

This program is helpful in motivating students to be at the proper level and to reach their potential in all of these important areas of study. Students may enter a few, or all of the events. Awards and prizes are given for outstanding achievement in each individual event as well as for completing all seven events with a passing score (7.0 or higher).

Only those who enter all seven events are eligible for the all-around award and the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals for their division. Prizes and awards may include cash, gift certificates, movie passes, CD players or possibly an MP3 player.

Events are passed off throughout the year, as opposed to all on one day. This gives students the opportunity to be well prepared for each event and tested when they are ready.

The first event is **Ensemble**, held in mid-October. Students will be assigned a recital time and will perform a duet or concerto at the recital. They are adjudicated by 2-3 judges whose points are averaged for the student's final score.

The next event is the **Creative Project**, which is held in January. Students create projects about a music subject which may be displayed or performed. The display format is similar to a science fair, with each student explaining and demonstrating their project to the judges. Creative Project performance format could be an original composition, a skit, a play, a narration, etc. that is performed for the judges. Teachers and students may receive a list of possible project ideas before the event.

The **Performance** event is usually held in late Spring. Students are assigned a recital time and will perform two contrasting pieces on a recital. As with the ensemble, students are adjudicated by 2-3 judges whose points are averaged for their final score.

Technic and **Sight-Reading** are ongoing events – meaning that when a student is ready to pass off a technic or sight-reading level, they will be instructed to call a tester and make an appointment to pass off their technic or sight-reading. More than one technic or sight-reading level may be passed off during the year. Tests must be completed by the designated deadline in May.

Theory and **Ear Training** are also ongoing events. Tests can be taken whenever the student is ready. Participating teachers will administer tests (after agreeing to follow specific guidelines to ensure the integrity of the testing) and submit completed tests by the designated deadline in May.

The **Awards Ceremony** is held in mid-late May. Outstanding achievements will be honored for each event, and we may hear selected Gold medal performances. Awards and prizes are given for outstanding achievement in each individual event as well as for completing all seven events with a passing score (7.0 or higher). Only those who enter all seven events are eligible for the all-around award and the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals for their division. Everyone who entered an event, regardless of how many, receive certificates and recognition. Prizes and awards may include cash, gift certificates, movie passes, CD players or possibly an MP3 player.

Fees: \$4 per event (\$28 per year if registering for all seven events) if paid by October 1. Thereafter, \$5 per event, to be paid no later than two weeks prior to each event day for the student to be included in that event.

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Event Dates for 2006-2007

Ensemble: Saturday, October 14, morning

Creative Project: Friday, January 19, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Performance: Saturday, May 12, morning

Testing Deadlines for Technic, Sight-Reading, Theory, Ear Training: May 18

Awards Ceremony: Tuesday, May 22, 7:00 p.m.