



The University of Iowa Trombone Studio

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Proficiency Exam Expectations

The fourth-semester, sophomore-level jury is an extended examination, called the Proficiency Exam. The student must pass the Proficiency Exam in order to enroll in Upper-Level Trombone (025:134). Four semesters (8 s.h.) of upper-level instruction are required for the Bachelor of Music degree. A student has three opportunities to pass the Proficiency Exam. If the student fails the third exam, further applied music must be taken at the non-major level (025:059). Students are allowed a maximum of six semesters (not including summer) in lower-level applied instruction.

The Proficiency Exam for trombonists consists of the following components:

- 1) Solo: An extended solo work (approx. 7-10 minutes) with accompaniment (if indicated by Professor Gier) is required.
- 2) "One of Three": Your repertoire sheet, detailing the work accomplished during the semester, will be given to any member of the brass faculty, except Professor Gier. From that list, the faculty member will choose three selections. You will perform one, of your choice. A normal and expected amount of material covered during a semester is:

2 Solo Works
20 Etudes (i.e. Rochut, Blazhevich, Lafosse, Snedecor, Tyrrell, Paudert, etc.)
Orchestral Excerpts

- 3) Sight Reading: For admission to upper-level study, the tenor trombonists must demonstrate proficiency in sight-reading material which employs the tenor clef. Bass trombonists must demonstrate proficiency in sight-reading material one octave lower than written.
- 4) Excerpts: Please refer to the attached Orchestral Excerpt packet for the required selections. You will be responsible for the performance of any or all of the selected excerpts.
- 5) Scales and Arpeggios: Please refer to the attached Scale/Arpeggio Checksheets. You will be responsible for playing all scales and arpeggios fluently (without mistakes, in tempo, the first time through) in a lesson during the semester preceding the Proficiency Exam in order to qualify to take the Exam. This can be self-paced; you may choose to prepare and play the scales and arpeggios in any order, and can have them checked-off at your initiative as the semester progresses.

Proficiency Exam Orchestral Excerpt Packet

Tenor Trombone

1. Berlioz, "Hungarian March" from *Damnation of Faust* [6 < reh. 4 to 2 > reh. 5]
2. Brahms, Symphony No. 1 [reh. C, 15 mm.]
3. Mahler, Symphony No. 3
[2 > reh. 13 to reh. 17, downbeat; pickup to reh. 33 to 2 > reh. 34]
4. Mozart, *Requiem*, "Tuba Mirum"
5. Ravel, *Bolero*
6. Rossini, *La Gazza Ladra* [3 excerpts]
7. Saint-Saëns, Symphony No. 3
8. Strauss, *Til Eulenspiegel*
9. Wagner, *Die Walküre*

Bass Trombone

1. Bach, Sarabande from Cello Suite No. 5
2. Haydn, *The Creation*, No. 26
3. Berlioz, "Hungarian March" from *Damnation of Faust*
4. Brahms, Symphony No. 1
5. Schumann, Symphony No. 3, "Rhenish"
6. Wagner, *Lohengrin*, Act III
7. Wagner, *Das Rheingold*, Scene 4, "Entrance of the gods to Valhalla"

Proficiency Exam Scale/Arpeggio Checksheet

SCALES	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	Bb	B
Major												
Natural Minor												
Harmonic Minor												
Melodic Minor												
ARPEGGIOS	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	Bb	B
Major												
Minor												
Full Diminished 7th												
Dominant 7th												

- Play all scales and arpeggios with control.
- Accuracy, evenness of tone, intonation, and steady rhythm are most important!
- Learn one octave first, then when range allows, two octaves.
- Diatonic patterns (Remington/Hunsberger, page 50) are excellent for mastering the scales and arpeggios.
- Also learn a two-octave **chromatic scale**, starting on a note of your choice.
- Recommended Book: *Scale Projects*, arr. Chuck Seipp (CJ Seipp Music Publications).
- For the proficiency examination, all scales and arpeggios are to be played FROM MEMORY.
- Scales should be played in eighth notes at approximately quarter-note=112.