



# Skill Maps

# PIANO & KEYS

## ADVANCED LEVEL 2

Taaqademy's music teachers are carefully chosen for their musical ability, teaching aptitude, live performance experience and music qualifications - pretty much in that order. We can confidently claim to have some of the country's top musicians with us. As a result, we use a proprietary method of '**Skill Maps**' to bring structure and focus

to our classes, enabling our musicians to **avoid cookie-cutter methods** when working with students. Skill Maps provide **detailed specifics** on what students should be able to accomplish at every level while allowing our teachers to use their own **unique approaches**, songs, techniques and shortcuts to get students there!

## PIANO & KEYS ADVANCED LEVEL 2: AREAS COVERED



**MUSIC THEORY & FUNDAMENTALS**



**SIGHT READING**



**EAR TRAINING**



**SONG LEARNING**



**MUSCULAR TRAINING**



**MUSIC EXAMINATIONS**



**LIVE PERFORMANCE**



**IMPROVISATION**

**DETAILS ON PG.2**



## MUSIC THEORY & FUNDAMENTALS

- Introduction to the Modes of the Harmonic/Melodic Minor scales, & other exotic scales; and the usage of phrasing, improvisation, and building melodic lines
- An understanding of Jazz Harmony & relevant resolutions, chord substitutions, and altered harmony
- Developing in-depth knowledge of scales/modes and their uses
- The ability to produce a recording - either as a solo or an ensemble
- Developing the tools and techniques in composition to write in different genres, and the development of a compositional style



## EAR TRAINING

- Ability to identify complex chords, inversions & voicings with accuracy
- Ability to work in solo/duo/trio and ensemble formats, with the flexibility to accompany, lead, solo, comp, etc., with fluency, sensitivity and dynamics.



## MUSCULAR TRAINING

- Ability to play all scales using semi-quavers at 180-200 bpm, and all arpeggios at 150-160, both in legato & staccato, and played with both hands simultaneously



## SIGHT READING

- Sight-reading pieces from RSL Grade 6/7, Trinity Grade 7/8



## SONG LEARNING

- Ability to play at least 50 songs in a variety of styles, with an in-depth understanding of genre-specific technique



## IMPROVISATION

- Ability to improvise fluently through simple and complex changes in a variety of musical styles - from pop and rock to blues and jazz and beyond, with the right sensitivity, dynamics and 'feel'.
- Ability to build coherent, spontaneous solos and harmony/revoicing while playing with ensembles.



## LIVE PERFORMANCE

- Regular performances at school/college/semi-pro/Taaqademy events



## MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

- RSL Awards Grade 7/8 (depending on ability/practice); Trinity Rock & Pop Grade 8 (depending on ability/practice)

## HOW LONG WILL THIS TAKE?

This question gets asked a lot! Allow us to give you a simple rule-of-thumb:

- At this level, if you **consistently** practice an avg. **1 - 2 hr. per day**, you can expect to have covered the above in **10 - 12 months (40 - 48 classes)**.
- If you practice around **4 hrs. per week**, this could **add 4 - 5 months**.
- If you practice **<1 hr. per week**, you could take **18+ months!**
- **Actually speaking, once you're at this level, you KNOW it takes forever. As in, your whole life. And that is good :-).**