



# Skill Maps

# PIANO & KEYS

## ADVANCED LEVEL 1

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 1: 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 Harmonic & Melodic Minor, Whole-Tone, Dim, and other exotic scales
- Understanding Chord Voicings in context to the musical style/ensemble, and the ability to spontaneously use voicings
- A basic understanding of Jazz Harmony & relevant resolutions, as well as chord substitutions
- Exploration of advanced rhythm studies including groove, pocket, playing 'ahead'/'behind' the beat, odd meters, syncopations & polyrhythms
- Developing the appropriate use of scales/modes to play from while improvising
- Developing the student's 'unique voice'
- Introduction to composition: putting together melodies & chord progressions, and working with other instrumentals to create ensembles
- Developing a good understanding of the music recording process, with an introduction to Mixing



## EAR TRAINING

- Ability to identify all the intervals within an octave by ear
- Ability to sing most scales in common usage by ear; ability to work out new scales given only the step-patterns/scale degrees.
- Ability to pick up harmonically & rhythmically sophisticated music by ear



## MUSCULAR TRAINING

- Ability to play all scales using semi-quavers at 160 bpm, and all arpeggios at 130, both in legato & staccato, and played with both hands simultaneously



## SIGHT READING

- Sight-reading pieces from RSL Grade 5/Trinity Grade 6 fluently



## IMPROVISATION

- Ability to improvise fluently with Blues, Diatonic and moderately complex non-diatonic and jazz chord progressions, in a variety of styles and feel.
- Ability to 'jam' with other musicians, picking up chords and melodies quickly; while also being able to accompany and provide solid rhythmic foundation to a singer, for example.



## SONG LEARNING

- Ability to play at least 40 songs in a variety of styles, with an in-depth understanding of genre-specific technique
- Ability to play RSL Grade 6 pieces fluently and well
- Ability to transcribe at least 25 solos with accuracy



## LIVE PERFORMANCE

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



## MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

- RSL Awards Grade 6/7 (depending on ability/practice); Trinity Rock & Pop Grade 7 (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 **8-10 months (32 - 40 classes)**.
- If you practice around **4 hrs. per week**, this could **add 2 - 3 months**.
- If you practice **<1 hr. per week**, you could take **14+ months!**