



## Indiana Arts Festival Improvisation Event Syllabus

Level	Required Length	Form	Melodic Requirements (Scales & Arpeggios, etc.)	Harmonization Requirements	Rhythmic Requirements
Primary	At least 8 Measures	-Demonstrate use of simple melodic and rhythmic patterns -Include dynamics and expression!	-Use at least one 5 finger scale and one broken chord in a major or minor key	-Use at least I and V notes or chords -Utilize either single notes and/or blocked chords in the accompaniment -End on the appropriate cadence chords	-Use of at least quarter and half notes
Elementary	8-16 Measures	-Demonstrate 2 or more phrases using contrasting melodic and rhythmic elements -Include dynamics and expression!	-Use at least one scale and one arpeggio in any major or minor key -Demonstrate the use of recognizable and cohesive melodic motifs throughout	-Use at least I, IV, V, vi (or i, iv, V, VI) chords. -Utilize blocked chords and broken chords in the accompaniment. -End on the appropriate cadence chords	-Use of at least quarter and half notes
Intermediate	16-32 Measures	-Demonstrate knowledge of binary (AB) or ternary (ABA) forms using contrasting elements such as those required in Elementary Level	-Include melodic requirements from Elementary Level -In addition demonstrate one or more instances of chromatic or whole tone scales in the melody	-Include harmonization requirements from Elementary Level as well as one or more of the following – diminished chords, augmented chords, etc. -Utilize a variety of blocked chords, arpeggios, Alberti bass, etc. in the accompaniment -End on the appropriate cadence chords	-Include rhythmic requirements from Elementary Level -In addition demonstrate a variety of rhythmic elements such as – but not limited to – pick up beats, accents, syncopation, etc.
Advanced	At least 32 Measures	-Demonstrate knowledge of the forms from Intermediate Level -In addition, be able to demonstrate other formal elements such as, but not limited to, imitation, variation, polyphony and other textural variety, etc. -Include dynamics and expression!	-Include melodic requirements from Intermediate Level as well as more complex harmonic elements such as, but not limited to, modal scales, blues scales, octatonic scales, 12-tone scales, etc.	-Include harmonization requirements from Intermediate Level as well as one or more of the following complex harmonic elements, such as, but not limited to, chromatic chord movements, secondary dominants, borrowed chords, modulation, etc. -Utilize a variety of blocked chords, arpeggios, Alberti bass, syncopated bass, polyphony and other textures in the accompaniment. -End on the appropriate cadence chords	-Include rhythmic requirements from Intermediate Level as well as complex rhythmic elements such as, but not limited to, triplets, polyrhythms, hemiola, meter change, etc.

**FOR ALL LEVELS:**

-Enter at the Level to match the solo registered solo class level.

-For an original improvisation, students are to provide the judge with the written out basic chord progression(s) in which they will base their improvisation. Chord chart, lead sheet or musical notation all acceptable.

-Students **MAY NOT** play a **COMPLETELY** pre-composed melody as this is not a composition event. A pre-composed melody is allowed only if the student plans to improvise over such melody.

-Students **MAY** provide a simple popular/recognizable melody (such as well known folk tunes, jazz tunes, Christmas songs, hymns, or spirituals) as a basis for their improvisation. Sample must include a chord chart, lead sheet, or sheet music with chord symbols.