

# OMTA SYLLABUS

## What is Syllabus?

The OMTA Syllabus is a curriculum of study focusing on music theory, musicianship (ear training, sight-reading, rhythm reading), technique and repertoire.

Students of OMTA teachers have the option of studying any of the following syllabi:

Classical Piano – 10 levels  
Jazz Piano – 7 levels  
Strings – 10 levels

Each level of study culminates in a formal assessment at a Syllabus Event. These assessments are private with only the student and adjudicator present. A waiting room is generally provided for parents and teachers. The student demonstrates the requirements for that level and receives a written critique at the conclusion of the assessment as well as a certificate.

At each Syllabus event, students may choose one of the following formats:

### 1. Syllabus Evaluation

The Syllabus Evaluation is an assessment of all the repertoire, theory, musicianship, and technique required for a particular level.

### 2. Syllabus Demonstration

The Syllabus Demonstration is an assessment that follows the standard list of requirements for a given level with the exception that fewer keys and pieces are required. Memorization is optional.

### 3. Syllabus Creative Audition

The Syllabus Creative Audition is an assessment that is highly flexible. The requirements for each audition are set by the teacher with input from the student. It can include a wide variety of repertoire outside the Classical Repertoire list.

## Special Honor Level X Recital and Awards

A state recital honoring students that have successfully completed Level X Evaluations, Demonstrations, or Auditions is held each June. To qualify for this recital, a student must have successfully completed either all four upper division levels or a combination of three upper and two lower division levels. Awards include a medal, a personalized letter of explanation from the Syllabus Chair, and/or a plaque.

## When is Syllabus?

The Syllabus curriculum is taught throughout the year. Exams are held twice a year, in the spring and fall.

## Where do examinations take place?

Examinations generally occur in private studios, local colleges and other public buildings.

## Who is involved?

The Syllabus curriculum and examinations are designed for students of OMTA members.

### 1. Beginning Students

Students are usually ready to begin studying for the first level of Syllabus after six months to one year of private instruction. Because each student is unique, the exact starting point is up to the individual teacher.

### 2. Transfer Students

Qualified transfer students will be placed at an appropriate level that coincides with their performance ability and knowledge of theory. This decision is at the teacher's discretion.

### 3. Adult Students

Adults are encouraged to participate in the Syllabus course and examinations. The Syllabus curriculum is appropriate for any age and adult students can benefit from all aspects of the course and annual examinations. Memorization of repertoire is not required of adults.

### 4. Teachers

All participating teachers are required to have a conference with the adjudicator after his/her students have played. This assures a positive exchange of ideas on teaching methods and assessment.

## Why Syllabus?

OMTA teachers and their students derive many benefits from Syllabus.

1. Sense of Achievement  
Students have the satisfaction of acquiring specific skills and receive valid and visual proof of progress through a certificate.
2. Goals  
An ongoing focus on the Syllabus curriculum provides annual goals for both teachers and students.
3. Second Opinion  
Assessments offer students an often needed second opinion to help reinforce concepts stressed by the teacher.
4. New Ideas  
Both teachers and students benefit from fresh ideas, helpful suggestions and encouragement.
5. College Bound?  
The Syllabus curriculum is especially designed to prepare interested students for music entrance exams at the collegiate level.
6. Unified State Curriculum  
The Syllabus curriculum is used statewide, offering equal opportunities for all students of OMTA members.

## What does Syllabus cost?

Fees are based on the student's level. Evaluations vary in length from 20 minutes to one hour. Students wishing to exceed the set exam time can purchase extra time.

## Who are the OMTA Adjudicators?

OMTA adjudicators are qualified, highly experienced, nationally certified teachers who are sensitive to individual students' needs.

Each year, adjudicators attend a day-long workshop to update and hone their skills.

OMTA adjudicators may be re-certified every two years by verifying their participation in continuing music education. These opportunities assure superior adjudicators for Oregon students.



**OMTA SYLLABUS**

Oregon Music Teachers Association

More information is available at:  
<https://oregonmta.org/programs/syllabus/>