



Keyboard skill levels and training. v3 (Adapted from Steve Crain, Andy Judd, and Garage Hymnal)

Level	1	2	3	4
Playing	Turn keyboard on, get basic sounds (piano, organ, elec piano, pad), plug into amp, attach damper/sustain pedal.	Quickly voice all major and minor chords in all keys in various inversions (either hand).	Play major, minor and dominant 7th chords, in various voicings (inversions)	Improvise tasteful melodies in gaps (soloing), understanding modes, chord theory, and the principles of tension/release.
	Play semibreves (one chord per bar).	Pick suitable voicings for the song (Voice leading, guide tones, etc).	Move between chords melodically (tension and release, 'probing ', etc)	Keep a solid technique: totally independent hands, smooth touch, control of dynamics, accuracy, etc)
	Play minims (two chords per bar).	Add Sus 2 and Sus 4 to chord voicings.	Improvise on major and minor pentatonic scales and use in fills	Hear chords and notes on the fly. (Great relative or absolute pitch).
		Layer sounds (ie adding strings to piano).	Play differently for different sounds (organ, electric piano, strings, etc)	
			Light and shade (build excitement, pull back, without changing tempo)	
Charts/ theory	Read major and minor chord symbols.			Write charts out (e.g. condense long charts down to a one pager)
	Understanding slash chords (e.g. A/C#, G/B).			<i>Understand advanced chord theory (jazz stuff)</i>
	Read a chart (repeats, 1st and 2nd time bars, Sign, Coda).			Improvise using a very broad repertoire of rhythmic parts (comping patterns)
Timing & Rhythm	Tap foot and count out loud.	Play basic "Imagine - John Lennon" broken chord groove (4 to the bar).	Nail standard rhythmic patterns	
	Stay in time with a drummer.	Play with a better sense of time (setting and maintaining solid tempo without drummer)	Even better sense of time	Play with fantastic sense of time and feel, either with or without other instruments.
	Play basic syncopated rhythms.			
Playing in a band / Creating	Understand playing with 1 hand ok (to not overlap with the bass guitar).	Not play sometimes.	Create parts which fit well with other instruments.	Create amazing parts which fit with the other instruments and serve the songs.
	Listens to a recording of the song.	Give clear and helpful prompts to singers (entrances, key changes etc). <i>(Probably not as relevant for our bands)</i>	Follow vocalists in intros etc (good cola voce ability) <i>(More relevant if it's a piano / vocal duet)</i>	Create sounds which fit your parts and sounds perfectly (know your gear, programming, organ drawbars, effects).
	Receive positive and negative feedback with maturity.	Can teach others level 1 skills	Can teach others level 2 skills	Can teach others level 3 & 4 skills