

# **PALMETTO PIPES & DRUMS REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION TO**

## **GRADE 4**

Name the notes (the student will be asked to identify the notes on a sheet of music that he/she has never seen before).

Enumerate the characteristics of whole note, half note, quarter note, eighth note, etc.

Explain the meaning of various time signatures (2/4, 4/4, 6/8, etc.)

Demonstrate the correct finger posture.

Be able to play Page 14 of Sandy Jones' *Beginning the Bagpipe* well and without crossing noises.

## **GRADE 3**

Good OPEN execution of each of the gracenotes and embellishments found on "Grade 4 Daily Exercises."

Be able to play *Scots Wha Hae* and *Amazing Grace* well and without crossing noises from memory (focus on OPEN embellishments, timing and correct execution).

## **GRADE 2**

Be able to play *Hyfrodol*, *The Day Thou Hast Giv'n*, *Brown Haired Maiden*, *High Road to Gairloch*, *Mairi's Wedding*, and *God Bless America* well and from memory (focus on OPEN embellishments, timing and correct execution).

The student will be asked to play the above tunes on the practice chanter with a metronome.

## **GRADE 1**

Demonstrate knowledge of the Great Highland Bagpipes (What is the name of each of the parts? How does the instrument work? How are the pipe chanter and drones tuned? Maintenance techniques, etc.)

Be able to play *Amazing Grace*, *Hyfrodol*, *The Day Thou Hast Giv'n*, *Brown Haired Maiden*, *High Road to Gairloch*, *Mairi's Wedding*, and *God Bless America* on the bagpipes well and from memory [CHANTER, NO DRONES] (focus on OPEN embellishments, timing and correct execution).

The student will also be asked to tune up his/her outside tenor drone and maintain a steady sound (no chanter).

## **THE BAND**

Be able to play *Amazing Grace*, *Hyfrodol*, *The Day Thou Hast Giv'n*, *Brown Haired Maiden*, *High Road to Gairloch*, *Mairi's Wedding*, *God Bless America*, *Flower of Scotland*, *McRae Meadow*, *Highland Cathedral*, *Bells of Dunblane*, *Scotland the Brave*, *Rowan Tree*, *Will Ye No' Come Back Again*, *Johnnie Scobie*, *Green Hills of Tyrol*, *When the Battle is O'er*, and *Castle Dangerous* on the bagpipes well and from memory [CHANTER AND DRONES] (focus on OPEN embellishments, timing and correct execution).

The student will be required to tune up his/her drones in front of the panel of instructors immediately prior to the performance.

## **INFORMATION REGARDING THE AUDITION PROCESS FOR**

### **GRADE 4 to 1**

The student will be testing in front of Billy, Pascal, Tom, Gary and Matt. After the audition is over, he/she will be asked to leave the room so that the instructors can talk privately about the performance. The student will then be asked to come back in to find out whether he/she has passed. The teachers will then offer their comments about the performance.

Failure to satisfactorily complete any of the requirements for a specific grade will result in a student being asked to try again at a later date. (A student's graduation to the next grade necessitates a unanimous decision on the part of the instructors). Failing a test is part of the normal learning process. Learning how to play the Great Highland Bagpipe takes years. The student should make sure that he/she practices regularly (a minimum of 15 to 30 minutes a day is highly recommended).

The student needs to focus on OPEN embellishments, correct timing and execution.

**WARNING:** During each audition the student will be tested on material that he/she has been tested on before. It is the student's responsibility to keep practicing everything that he/she has learned previously.

### **THE BAND**

The student will be testing in front of Billy, Steve, Pascal, Grace, Gary, Tom, and Matt. The teachers will take turn in asking the aspiring new full band member to perform a certain tune or set of tunes. Upon completion of the audition, the student will be asked to leave the room so that the instructors can talk privately about the performance and determine whether he/she has the necessary skills to join the band. The student will then be asked to come back in to find out whether he/she has passed. Each of the instructors will then offer his/her own comments.

After the test, and while the student is out of the room, the instructors will first take a vote to determine whether he/she should become a full member of the band based on what they have just heard. A failure to obtain at least 5 votes (out of 7) will result in the student being asked to audition again at a later date. The teachers will then talk among themselves about the performance that they have just listened to.

The student needs to focus on OPEN embellishments, correct timing and execution.

## **NOMINATION PROCESS**

It is the responsibility of the instructor to determine whether a student in his/her class has the necessary skills to be tested for the next grade. The teacher will inform Pascal that he/she has a candidate for graduation. The audition will take place a week after the nomination. Tests are administered on Mondays from 4:45 to 5:30 pm.

The student is encouraged to talk to his/her instructor about his/her performance in the class on a regular basis.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The student is required to purchase a metronome at the same time than he/she acquires his/her first practice chanter. It is imperative that he/she practices with this timing device at all times.

It is strongly recommended that the student bring a tape recorder to class in order to benefit fully from the instruction received on Monday night during the remainder of the week.

*08/06/2003*