

## General Description

The **Achievement in Music Program**, also known as **AIM**, is an exciting and motivating program for students developed by dedicated members of the **Illinois State Music Teachers Association (ISMTA)**. AIM is designed to develop strong performance and technical skills as well as a thorough understanding of music theory. There are twelve levels in the program, with Level 1 divided into three parts, Levels 1A, 1B, and 1C. Each level has **theory**, **performance**, and **technical** requirements that follow a logical progression from early elementary through advanced.

Students generally prepare one level each year and demonstrate their competency at annual exams, which are conducted by experienced judges in a comfortable setting. Students are not in competition with other students, but are evaluated individually on their accomplishments. Students are recognized with a pin for passing the theory exam and a certificate for passing both the theory and performance exam. Level 9-12 students also receive a plaque.



## Getting Started

Contact your local chapter's AIM Chair to learn more about AIM exams in your location. If your chapter does not participate in AIM, contact the ISMTA Director of Education, whose contact information may be found on the ISMTA website.

## Theory

Theory and keyboard skills include:

- Sight reading
- Rhythm sight reading
- Harmonization
- Transposition
- Written skills
- Aural skills
- Score analysis

## Performance

Technique skills progress from five-finger patterns to scales, chords and arpeggios. Students perform repertoire from various musical style periods as they progress from early to advanced levels. See the Syllabus for requirements at each level.

## Resources

The resources below may be purchased from the Illinois State Music Teachers Association's website at [www.ismta.org](http://www.ismta.org).

## AIM Syllabus

Teachers must refer to the 2014 AIM Syllabus for specific requirements in theory, technique and repertoire at each level. The Program Description in the beginning of the Syllabus explains the program thoroughly and answers most questions.

## AIM Workbooks

The teacher only needs the 2014 AIM Syllabus to prepare students, but additional materials may prove useful. Supplementary student workbooks are available for levels 2 through 12 to help prepare students for AIM exams. Students need a new workbook for each level. Workbooks may not be copied. It is a violation of fair use and undermines the activities of our organization.

## Sample Theory Exam

The sample theory exam provides additional written and aural skills practice. Practice exams are also included with each level of the ISMTA syllabus.