

TO: Incoming Undergraduate Music Students
FM: Dr. Linda Monson, Associate Chair, Department of Music
SU: Music Competency Placement Tests
DA: June 11, 2007

We are looking forward to your attending George Mason University. We have an outstanding faculty which is dedicated to providing you with challenging, comprehensive, and rewarding educational experiences. Our goal is to assist you in developing your musical and academic skills to their highest potential.

Newly entering music *transfer* students who wish to apply credits toward the major in music in Keyboard Skills (including keyboard harmony) and Sight Singing/Ear Training must pass placement tests in these subjects. If you have taken any of these courses at other colleges or universities, you should plan on taking the placement tests. For those tests you do not pass, you will need to repeat those courses at GMU.

The next scheduled testing date will be Tuesday, August 21, 2007 at the following times:

Ear Training	8:30 a.m.	Performing Arts Building	Rm. A315
Sight Singing	9:30 a.m.	Performing Arts Building	Rm. A315
*Keyboard Skills	8:00 a.m.	Performing Arts Building	Rm. A332

The Ear Training test will be administered to students as a group while the Sight Singing and Keyboard Skills tests will be given individually. Students taking the Keyboard Skills III test need to get a copy of the test on Monday, August 20, from the Department of Music (993-1380); each student taking this test will be given a period no longer than 24 hours during which time they must prepare the specific exercises listed on the test. Information regarding the content of the various tests is enclosed.

Freshman or transfer students who have not had any of the above-mentioned courses but feel they have competence in any of the above-named areas may wish to take the placement tests in order to receive “credit-by-examination.”

Students who have taken a full-year high school theory course or have had other substantial study in theory and harmony may wish to take a placement test in order to receive “credit-by-examination” for Theory I (MUSI 115). Newly entering transfer students do not need to take the theory placement test. This test will be given at the following time on Tuesday, August 21, 2007:

Theory I (Written Harmony)	10:00am	Performing Arts Bldg.	Rm. A311
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Please call the Department of Music if you have any questions or concerns (703) 993-1380. I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

* NOTE: Students accepted into one of GMU’s music degree programs as piano, organ, or harpsichord majors need not take the Keyboard Skills I & II tests. However, these students must substitute Techniques of Accompanying I & II for Keyboard Skills I & II and must take Keyboard Skills III or pass it through “credit-by-examination.”



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
MUSIC COMPETENCY PLACEMENT TESTS

All entering transfer students who desire to present transfer credit in any of the following areas **must take** the appropriate Music Competency Placement Tests: Sight Singing/Ear Training and Keyboard Skills. Students who have taken these courses at other colleges and universities but do not pass the equivalent placement tests at GMU will be required to retake these courses at GMU on a credit basis. The equivalent courses taken elsewhere, then, cannot be counted towards a GMU music degree. Students who desire to earn "Credit by Examination" in any of these areas should also take these tests. Students accepted into GMU's degree programs as piano, organ, or harpsichord majors need not take Keyboard Skills I & II (Keyboard Skills III must be taken or credit-by-exam must be earned). Keyboard Majors must substitute Techniques of Accompanying I & II for Keyboard Skills I & II. If students wish to see examples of the requirements listed below, they can review the texts used for these classes. Students are not required to buy these tests, or any text, in order to pass the competency placement tests.

I. SIGHT SINGING / EAR TRAINING (MUSIC 113, 114)

A. Sight Singing

1. Intervals
2. Melodies (diatonic, chromatic, atonal)
3. Rhythms in the following meters: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 2/2, 4/8, 6/8, 9/8, changing meters
4. Chords
5. Clefs: treble, bass, alto tenor

B. Ear Training

1. Melodic Intervals
2. Harmonic Intervals
3. Rhythms (see list under Sight Singing)
4. Diatonic melodies (4-8 measures in length)
5. Chord identification (root position, 1st & 2nd inversions)
6. Outervoices & chord functions in four-part texture

Text/Software suggestions:

Yasui/Trubitt: Basic Sight Singing (Mayfield Publishing Co.)

Kanyan/Smith: Sight Singing & Ear Training: Supplementary Materials for Practice (Sold in the GMU Johnson Center: Course Material Sales.)

Ottman: Music for Sight Singing, Third edition (Prentice-Hall, Inc.)

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II. Keyboard Skills I (Music 171)

A. Sightreading

1. Harmonize & transpose a single line melody using I, IV, & V Chords
2. Read two parts simultaneously from a choral score (Treble & bass lines)

B. Perform, with preparation

You will be given this part of the exam when you arrive for the testing and will have ten minutes to prepare the following:

1. Harmonize & transpose a single line melody using I, IV, V Chords and a moving left hand accompaniment pattern (e.g. Alberti bass, waltz bass, broken chord style etc.)
2. Sightreading example from selected skill-appropriate repertoire.

C. Prepared skills

The following skills/repertoire should be practiced in advance of the testing and must be well-prepared to be acceptable:

1. All major and harmonic minor scales (1 octave) *hands together, beginning on any of the WHITE KEYS, with correct acceptable fingerings.*
2. Major and minor broken chords *in all white keys, all inversions, full octave pattern (e.g.: c-e-g-c / e-g-c-e / g-c-e-g)*
3. One prepared piece on the difficulty level of Dmitri Kabalevsky's 24 Pieces for Children or J.S. Bach's Anna Magdalena Bach Book. (Memory optional).

III. Keyboard Skills II (Music 172)

A. Sightreading

1. Harmonize & transpose a single line melody using all diatonic harmonies and secondary dominants
2. Read Treble & Bass simultaneously in a two-part contrapuntal keyboard texture.

B. Perform, with preparation

You will be given this part of the exam when you arrive for the testing and will have ten minutes to prepare the following:

1. Harmonize & transpose a single line melody using all diatonic harmonies and secondary dominants and a moving left-hand accompaniment
2. Alto Clef & Bass Clef reading in a two-part texture

C. Prepared skills

The following skills/repertoire should be practiced in advance of the testing and must be well-prepared to be acceptable:

1. Scales (2 Octaves), Arpeggios (2 Octaves), and standard chord progressions (e.g. I, IV, V7, I), including secondary dominants, in any major or minor key, *with correct acceptable fingerings.*
2. One prepared piece on the difficulty level of J.S. Bach's Anna Magdalena's Bach Book or more difficult level. (Memory optional).

IV. Keyboard Skills III (Music 273)

Each student is given a "take-home" exam and is given 24 hours to prepare.

The prepared test will include the following skills:

1. Playing functional chord progression with secondary dominants and modulations.
2. Harmonize & transpose melodies using secondary dominants.
3. Score Reading: Four-part Choral score & Four-part Instrumental score with Alto and/or Tenor Clefs.
4. Play from a standard "lead sheet."
5. Realization of a figured bass.
6. Play a simple accompaniment from a vocal or instrumental piece.

Text suggestions in preparation for these exams:

Keyboard Skills I & II: Piano for the Developing Musician Vol. I, Hilley/Olson

Keyboard Skills III: Preparatory Exercises in Score Reading, Morris & Ferguson