



Conservatory at Gifted Music School

Music Theory Diagnostic Exam

STUDY GUIDE

Exam Date: **Saturday, May 23, 2025**

Immediately following live auditions, all applicants will be given a theory diagnostic (or "placement") exam which will allow our faculty to accurately place students in the appropriate level of music theory.

Applicants are encouraged to review this Study Guide prior to taking the diagnostic exam. Students are *not* expected to know everything on this list. Topics covered in the exam are extracted from each of the various levels of music theory at Gifted Music School. Students should complete as much of the test as they are able to at this point in their musical journey.

Results of the diagnostic exam will have no impact on the student's final admissions decision. Please anticipate reserving one (1) hour after the live audition to take this exam. If you have any questions about the audition or application requirements, please contact the Conservatory Admissions Staff at conservatory@giftedmusicschool.org.

PITCH IDENTIFICATION

Label notes in treble clef and bass clef
Identify notes on a keyboard
Compare two notes and indicate which is higher or lower
Solfege (fixed Do)

RHYTHM

Note and rest values
Time signatures (simple and complex)
Add bar lines based on a given time signature

MUSICAL TERMS

Dynamics, tempo, articulation, expression
Musical Signs and Symbols

KEY SIGNATURES

Order of sharps and flats
Identify and draw key signatures
Label relative minor and major keys
Circle of fifths

SCALES

Scale degree names
Write major scales and all three types of minor scales
Other scales: chromatic scale, whole tone scale, pentatonic scale, octatonic scale, blues scale
Modes

INTERVALS

Whole step, half step
Intervals (quality and quantity)
Invert intervals
Identify intervals as harmonic or melodic

TRIADS

Major, minor, diminished, augmented

Inversions

Triads above a major scale and minor scale with Roman numerals

SEVENTH CHORDS

MM^7 , Mm^7 , $mm7$, o^7 , MM^{o7}

HARMONIC ANALYSIS

Analyze a musical excerpt with Roman Numerals

Figured bass

Label non-harmonic tones

Cadences

FOUR-PART WRITING

Voice ranges

Keyboard style/choral style

Common voice-leading mistakes

Harmonize a given soprano line

Realize figured bass