



DOROTHY SUTTON PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL THEORY TEST CONTENT

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Note: The knowledge tested on these exams are cumulative; exams at any given level will include music theory knowledge that has been introduced at the lower levels in this guide.

PRIMER LEVEL

KEY NAMES Piano white key identification

NOTE NAMES *Piano* - a 5th above and below middle C;

Alto and Bass Clef Instruments – low G to C above the staff;

Guitar, Treble Clef Instruments and Vocal Treble Clef – Middle C, up an octave;

Vocal Bass Clef – second space C up to middle C

NOTE VALUES quarter note, half note, dotted half note, whole note

TIME SIGNATURES 2/4, 3/4, 4/4

INTERVALS 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th (white keys)

VOCABULARY treble clef, [alto clef,] bass clef, forte, piano, double bar, staccato, legato, interval, tied notes, steps, skips, [one bow,] slurs, time signature, measures, beats, bar lines

LEVEL 1

KEY NAMES sharp and flat piano key identification, including white key sharps and flats

NOTE NAMES *Piano* – all notes on the Grand Staff;

Alto and Bass Clef Instruments – C below staff up to E above staff;

Guitar, Treble Clef Instruments and Vocal Treble Clef – Middle C up to top line F;

Vocal Bass Clef – second space C up to F above the staff

NOTE/REST VALUES pair of eighth notes, quarter rest, half rest, whole rest

TIME SIGNATURES 2/4, 3/4, 4/4

INTERVALS up to and including a 6th (white keys)

VOCABULARY mezzo piano, mezzo forte, fermata, ritardando (rit.), flat, sharp, natural, whole step, half step, bar line, measure, repeat sign, key signature

LEVEL 2

NOTE NAMES *Piano* – all notes on the Grand Staff;

Alto and Bass Clef Instruments, Vocal Bass Clef – C below staff up to high F;

Guitar, Treble Clef Instruments and Vocal Treble Clef – Middle C up to top line F

NOTE/REST VALUES dotted quarter note, single eighth note, eighth rest

TIME SIGNATURES 6/8

INTERVALS 7th, octave (8th)

KEY SIGNATURES recognition of C, F, and G major keys

SCALES be able to write C, F, and G major scales

CHORDS identification of white key major triads in root position

VOCABULARY a tempo, accidental, crescendo, diminuendo, transpose, ff, pp, 8va, D.C. al fine, allegro, moderato, andante, accent, triad, tempo, arpeggio

LEVEL 3

NOTE NAMES *Piano* – two ledger lines above and below the Grand Staff;
Alto and Bass Instruments, Vocal Bass and Treble Clefs – C below staff to C above staff;
Guitar, Treble Clef Instruments – Middle C to C above the staff

NOTE/REST VALUES eighth note triplet, sixteenth notes

TIME SIGNATURES C, 3/8, 9/8, 12/8

INTERVALS recognition of perfect or major intervals in a white key major scale

KEY SIGNATURES recognition of D, A, E, and B major keys

SCALES be able to write D, A, E, and B major scales

CHORDS identification of major triads in root position: Db, Eb, F#, Ab, and Bb

TRANSPOSING be able to write 4 measures up or down 1 whole step in the treble clef

VOCABULARY phrase, tonic note, D.S., ledger line, common time, dolce, adagio, allegretto, molto, poco

LEVEL 4

NOTE NAMES *Piano* – Inner ledger lines of Grand Staff;
Alto and Treble Instruments, Guitar, Vocal Treble – G below the staff up to high F;
Bass Clef Instruments, Vocal Bass Clef – C below the staff up to C above the staff

NOTE/REST VALUES dotted eighth-sixteenth, sixteenth rest

TIME SIGNATURES cut time (2/2)

INTERVALS perfect 4th, 5th, 8th; Major 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th; in black key majors: Db, Eb, F#, Ab, Bb

KEY SIGNATURES F# (Gb), Db, Eb, Ab, Bb major keys; be able to write sharps/flats in the correct order

SCALES be able to write all major scales up to 6 sharps/flats

CHORDS identification of all minor triads in root position

TRANSPOSING be able to transpose 4 measures up or down a 5th from C major

VOCABULARY con moto, non troppo, simile, subdominant note, dominant note, alla breve, cantabile, leggiero, largo, vivace, [tablature]

LEVEL 5

NOTE VALUES eighth note-two sixteenth notes

INTERVALS minor 2nd, 3rd, 6th, and 7th

KEY SIGNATURES relative minors (e.g. C Major <--> a minor)

SCALES write a, e, d, c, and g minor scales; recognize the 3 minor scale forms (no writing)

CHORDS identification of any major or minor triad in 1st and 2nd inversion

TRANSPOSING be able to transpose 4 measures between the keys of Bb, Eb, and Ab

VOCABULARY tenuto, senza, meno mosso, una corda, sequence, portato, cadence, presto, prestissimo

LEVEL 6

NOTE VALUES sixteenth note triplet, thirty-second notes

INTERVALS augmented and diminished all

KEY SIGNATURES parallel minors (e.g. G Major <--> g minor)

SCALES be able to write and identify all 3 forms of minor scales

CHORDS augmented and diminished chords in root position

TRANSPOSING be able to write 4 measures up or down a 5th from an Ab major melody

VOCABULARY subito, accelerando, agitato, rubato, risoluto, sans ralentir, con forza, m.d. (main droit), m.g. (main gauche), modulate, lento, prestissimo, atonal, parallel chords

LEVEL 7 – Piano Only!

INTERVALS Maj, Per, min, Aug, and dim intervals, including double sharps and double flats

KEY SIGNATURES all major and minor scales; relative minors and parallel minors

CHORDS Maj, min, Aug, and dim triads in root position, 1st and 2nd inversion positions; dominant or diminished 7th chords in root position e.g. (C 7 or C dim7)

TRANSPOSING from any key to any other key

HARMONIC ANALYSIS be able to analyze a simple passage of music in a major key, identify and write the chord symbols using Roman Numerals – the following chords will be used: I , I 6 , I 6/4 , ii , ii 6 , ii 6/4 , IV , IV6 , IV6/4 , V , V6 , V6/4 or V7

VOCABULARY authentic cadence, half cadence, plagal cadence, articulation, cadenza, canon, con fuoco, counterpoint, enharmonic key, maestoso, marcato, morendo, piu, poco a poco, sforzando, spiritoso, syncopation, transcription, binary form, ternary form, homophony, polyphony

LEVEL 8 – Piano Only!

CHORDS major seventh, dominant seventh, minor seventh, half-diminished, and diminished seventh including all inversions e.g. (F7, C Maj 6/5, D min 4/3, or A dim 4/2)

MODES Ionian, Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian, and Locrian. Be able to write any mode starting on any key. (e.g. C Dorian: C D Eb F G A Bb C)

CADENCES authentic, plagal, half, deceptive, perfect and imperfect

METER identify simple or compound, duple, triple, or quadruple

ORNAMENTS identify appoggiatura, trill, turn, mordent and grace note

HARMONIC ANALYSIS these additional chords may be used: V 6/5, V 4/3, V 4/2, vi, vi 6, and vi 6/4

NONHARMONIC TONES be able to identify the following: anticipation, appoggiatura, lower neighbor, upper neighbor, passing tone and suspension

MUSIC HISTORY: VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL FORMS, DANCES AND OCCASIONAL PIECES be able to match the following to their appropriate definition: aria, ballade, berceuse, bolero, cantata, capriccio, chamber music, etude, fugue, impromptu, invention, lied, madrigal, mazurka, minuet, musette, nocturne, oratorio, opera, overture, partita, polonaise, prelude, recitative, rhapsody, rondo, scherzo, solo concerto, sonata, symphony, suite, tarantella, theme and variations, toccata and waltz, serenade

VOCABULARY a cappella, ad libitum, allargando, assai, C clef, doloroso, episode (as in a fugue), 15ma, glissando, grave, hemiola, leading tone, leitmotiv, libretto, l'istesso, loco, mediant, monophony, ostinato, pedal point, peu á peu, Picardy third, pizzicato, rinforzando, rubato, secondary dominant, sequence, simile, slentando, smorzando, solfege, sotto voce, stretto, subject (as in a fugue), submediant, supertonic, timbre, vibrato