

**MUSIC THEORY ORIENTATION Summer 2020**  
**ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (revised April 16, 2020)**

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*All music majors must complete the Basic Music Theory course sequence: MUS 101-102, MUS 201-202 (Music Theory I-IV), MUS 151-152, and MUS 251-252 (Aural Skills I-IV). MUS 101/151 are usually taken concurrently, as are MUS 102/152, MUS 201/251, and MUS 202/252.*

*Music Performance and Music Composition majors must complete additional courses: MUS 301 (Counterpoint), MUS 406 (Analysis), and MUS 451-452 (Advanced Sight-Singing and Dictation).*

*Most majors feel comfortable beginning with MUS 101 and MUS 151 in their first term. Music Theory courses should not be delayed, since they are prerequisite courses to many upper-level requirements in music.*

**If you have never studied music theory and did not take a theory test at your audition:**

You might wish to get a head start on the basic materials. You will want to practice note-reading in both treble and bass clefs so that you are fluent with note-naming by the time you arrive (we spend only one class day on this). A basic knowledge of rhythmic counting is also helpful. Additionally, it is wise to know the basic fundamentals of music theory. In addition to many online resources, the book *Scales, Intervals, Keys, Triads, Rhythm, and Meter* is a self-guided introduction to the materials you will be using. Completing this book before classes start will give you a good foundation with which to begin music theory.

**If you have studied music theory already (but did not take an approved AP or IB course):**

You might be able to take a theory proficiency test for a higher-level class. Please register for MUS 101 and MUS 151; then see the Music Theory coordinator for your proficiency test. There is a financial cost to take a proficiency test; a grade of 75% is required to pass.

*Proficiency tests are given the first week of every semester, and must be completed no later than Friday at noon of that week.*

**If you took a theory test at your music audition, please review your score:**

*This experience is crafted to gauge a relative level of preparation for success in MUS 101.*

- A score between **80-100** indicates you are appropriately prepared for entering theory and aural skills.
- A score between **60-80** indicates that you would probably benefit by reviewing the materials you know -- such as reading musical notation in both treble and bass clefs, rhythm and meter, scales, and chords -- before you arrive in the fall.
- A score **below 60** indicates that you would definitely benefit by getting a head start with independent study in music fundamentals. In addition to the book *Scales, Intervals, Keys, Triads, Rhythm, and Meter* mentioned above, the company Connect for Education has offered a 20% discount for their online summer Fundamentals course (regular price \$100) for anyone who took the audition test. Please ask your Orientation Advisor for additional details.

**If you have taken an AP Music Theory test or an IB Music test, send your scores to Miami:**

- **AP score 3:** You will receive credit for MUS 101. You may wait until second semester, and then begin the written theory sequence with MUS 102. However, you should still register for MUS 151 in the fall.

- **AP score 4:** You will receive credit for MUS 101 and MUS 151. You may wait until second semester, and then begin the theory sequence with MUS 102 and MUS 152.
- **AP score 5:** Students who receive an AP score of “5” are eligible to take a further proficiency test for MUS 102 and MUS 152. If you do not choose to take a further proficiency test, simply wait until second semester, and then begin the theory sequence with MUS 102 and MUS 152. See the Music Theory Coordinator for further advising.
- **IB Music score 5 or better:** You will receive credit for MUS 101 and MUS 151. You may wait until second semester, and then begin the theory sequence with MUS 102 and MUS 152.
- **No score.** If you did not take a certified test, Miami cannot grant automatic credit. You will need to take the proficiency tests. See the Music Theory Coordinator.

### **If you wish to transfer credits from other institutions of higher learning:**

If you are transferring from another institution and have completed the entire 16-credit four-semester theory and ear-training sequence at a state college or university in Ohio, the entire sequence will transfer as part of the Ohio Transfer Assurance Guidelines (TAG). If you have NOT completed the entire sequence from an Ohio state college or university, you will need to be interviewed and placed into the proper theory and ear-training classes at Miami.<sup>1</sup> Students wishing to transfer credits from other institutions of higher learning (including private schools in Ohio or public/private schools in other states and countries) will need to see the Music Theory Coordinator for placement. It is helpful to bring all course materials and textbooks for this meeting.

### **When are classes offered?**

MUS 101, MUS 151, MUS 201, and MUS 251 are offered only in the fall semester every year.  
 MUS 102, MUS 152, MUS 202, and MUS 252 are offered only in the spring semester every year.

MUS 301 is offered only in the fall semester every other year (*next scheduled Fall 2020*)

MUS 406 is offered only in the spring semester every other year (*next scheduled Spring 2021*)

MUS 451/551 is offered only in the fall semester every other year (*next scheduled Fall 2021*)

MUS 452/552 is offered only in the spring semester every other year (*next scheduled Spring 2022*)

### **Textbook:**

The textbook for MUS 101-102, is *The Musician’s Guide to Theory and Analysis*, 3rd edition, by Jane Clendinning and Elizabeth West Marvin. The textbook for MUS 151-152 is *The Musician’s Guide to Aural Skills*, 3rd edition, by Paul Murphy, Joel Phillips, Jane Clendinning, and Elizabeth Marvin. This is the edition with a purple cover.

We have ordered discounted bundles containing the textbook, the workbook, and the anthology, with online access to audio streaming examples and study materials. It is also possible to purchase (or rent) an electronic version of the book with online access. Often, the best prices are offered directly from the publisher.

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<sup>1</sup> *The State of Ohio Transfer Assurance Guidelines states that “An entire sequence must be completed and passed for classes that are sequential in nature. If the entire sequence is not completed and passed, the transfer student will be required to take a proficiency test to determine placement in the sequence at the receiving university. Any proficiency level, as determined by examination, performance jury, or other means, that is required of native students will also be required of transfer students. Determining performance entry levels is the responsibility of the receiving institution.”* [[http://regents.ohio.gov/transfer/tags/arts\\_humanities/MusicTAG.pdf](http://regents.ohio.gov/transfer/tags/arts_humanities/MusicTAG.pdf)]

*Cost and other Considerations:* Books will be used for MUS 101/151, MUS 102/152, MUS 201/251, and MUS 202/252 -- so keep that in mind as you look at the cost factor: divide the initial price by 4 for the per-semester cost. If you are considering renting, remember to rent for the full two-year period, and make sure you have the Total Access package (with the online code). Many students find the hardback copy preferable because they end up keeping the book for future reference; some also like the loose-leaf version because they don't have to haul the whole book around. Finally, if you decide to purchase "used", please do not purchase a used workbook; students who have done so discover that pages are often missing! If you need to defer purchasing one of the units, you can probably delay purchasing the anthology until the second semester. The anthology is used most in the second year.

**NOTE: There is a substantial difference between the 2nd and 3rd editions; please do NOT purchase an older edition to save money.**

**What if I have other questions?**

Please contact Dr. Claire Boge, Music Theory Coordinator. 131 CPA, 513-529-1441, [bogecl@miamioh.edu](mailto:bogecl@miamioh.edu)