

Theory Placement Assessment Information

Diploma in Music Performance

For the Diploma in Music Performance audition, you will be required to complete a **Theory Placement Assessment (TPA)**. The purpose of the TPA is to determine your level of theory/rudiments knowledge. Upon successful completion, you will proceed directly to the core program courses MUSC 112 (Tonal Harmony) and MUSC 114 (Aural Skills). The TPA will take three hours to complete. If you have completed Camosun MUSC 111 or RCM Grade 8 theory with a grade of 60 (C) or better, you do not need to complete the TPA. If you have not taken formal music theory courses or lessons, don't worry; you would then start at level MUSC 110 or MUSC 111 (Theory Fundamentals 1 & 2). Contact the Conservatory and talk to us about options for private instruction or group classes that may take place before the start of the program in September.

Skills Tested

Read, write, identify and manipulate quickly and with fluency:

- Pitch notation in treble, bass, and C-clefs, up to two ledger lines above and below the staff
- Rhythm notation for values from *breve* to 32nd-note, including beams, ties, dots, and basic “-tuplets”
- Time signatures: simple and compound duple, triple, and quadruple
- Key signatures, scales, and triads: All major and minor keys on the Circle of Fifths
- Diatonic scale degrees by name and by number
- Intervals and inversions (harmonic and melodic, simple and compound): Perfect, major, minor, diminished, and augmented
- Triads, closed and open position, and in inversion: Major, minor, augmented, and diminished.
- Seventh chords, closed and open position, and in inversion: M7, Mm7, m7, ø7 and °7
- Symbols for chords and triads: figured bass and lead sheet notations
- Diatonic triads and 7th chords in major and minor keys, including identification with Roman numerals
- Transposition between keys and across intervals within an octave
- Key or chord identification of musical passages given in on grand staff or single staff
- Cadence identification (authentic, half, plagal, deceptive)
- Figured bass symbols
- Identification of common musical terms